

Empty nesters

A guide to survival

→ G2



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▲ King Charles follows the coffin of the Queen as it is carried by horse-drawn gun carriage to lie in state at Westminster Hall. PHOTOGRAPH: MARCO BERTORELLO/AFP/GT

Amid the pageantry, the Queen takes place in history

Caroline Davies

From the moment she inherited the crown, Queen Elizabeth II knew she was destined to lie in state on the exact same spot as her father, her grandfather and great grandfather before her. Such is the rhythm of royal life.

That destiny was fulfilled when her coffin, draped in the royal standard and with the imperial state crown on top, was borne into the ancient splendour of Westminster Hall; the place where palace meets parliament, and a monument to the life of the nation since the 11th century.

Here she will remain, beneath the medieval timbered roof, and under the sightless gaze of the six stone kings, until her funeral on Monday.

About 300 MPs and peers had quietly filed on to the worn steps inside the huge hall yesterday, as the Queen departed Buckingham Palace for a final time. These steps, scene of historic addresses from leaders such as Nelson Mandela and Pope Benedict XVI, have witnessed much, including the trial of Charles I. Yesterday it was the handing over of the monarch by her family to the nation for her public farewell.

'People disappeared': Izium recalls horror of occupation

● Outsiders visit city, described as a second Mariupol, for first time since Russian retreat

● Ukrainian prosecutors work to gather evidence of alleged war crimes as residents tell of ordeal

Lorenzo Tondo
Isobel Koskiw
Izium

The horror slowly unfolds from the burnt-out rubble in Izium, one of the most strategically vital towns for the Russians before its recapture last weekend by Ukrainian forces.

Tank carcasses with Moscow's signature Z symbol are dotted

along the crater-covered streets. Dozens of bombed-out apartment buildings in the city centre lie derelict along roads covered with the debris of a battle that has been one of this war's fiercest, resulting in the deaths of at least 1,000 people, according to Ukrainian officials.

The city, described as a second Mariupol because of the heavy bombardments it has suffered, was visited by the outside world yesterday for the first time since its recapture.

"It is impossible to explain what we have been through if you have not lived it," says Olga, 44. "We lay down on the floor and remained inside our house for so long that

'They killed my friend in cold blood, along with his dog'

Eduard, 30
Izium resident

we learned to recognise bombs. If the Russian plane we heard from outside wasn't that loud, then we knew it was going to drop two bombs. If, on the other hand, the plane was very loud, it would drop six. We counted every single explosion before we could breathe a sigh of relief."

Outside the city administration building, which is still hot from being bombed, there are fresh bullet casings. Bodies brutalised by shelling are reportedly being found in the rubble, with some people apparently buried alive.

Regarded for centuries as the gateway to the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine and from there to the Black Sea, today Izium is a giant crime scene where Ukrainian prosecutors are moving fast to gather evidence on war crimes allegedly perpetrated by the Russians in the cities liberated by Kyiv.

4 →

29 →

Inside 15/09/22
Four sections
every day

News and Sport

Dementia discovery

Taking multivitamins every day could slow cognitive decline - study

Page 14

Journal Outside G2

Opinions and ideas

It's one law for our billionaire king, and another for the rest of us

Aditya Chakrabortty

Page 1

G2 Centre pullout

Features and arts

'He shattered cinema'

Martin Scorsese, Mike Leigh and other directors pay tribute to Jean-Luc Godard

Page 8

Save up to 43% with our limited-time subscription offer for the Guardian and the Observer

Page 32

Weather

Page 40

Quick crossword

Back of G2

Cartoon

Journal, page 4

Cryptic crossword

Back of Journal

Contact

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News



Andersson, the outgoing prime minister, pointed out that the Social Democrats remained Sweden's largest party

PHOTOGRAPH: JESSICA GOW/EPA

Sweden's PM concedes defeat to opposition bloc including far right

David Crouch

Gothenburg

The leader of Sweden's incumbent Social Democrats conceded defeat in the country's knife-edge election yesterday, handing victory to a loose bloc of rightwing parties that includes the far-right Sweden Democrats (SD).

The prime minister, Magdalena Andersson, called a press conference at which she accepted defeat, while pointing out that the Social Democrats remained Sweden's largest party, with more than 30% of the vote, and that the majority in parliament for the right bloc was very slim.

When postal votes and those of citizens living abroad were counted, a coalition of the SD and three centre-right parties edged ahead to win a

majority of three in the parliament of 349 seats.

There is no formal agreement between the SD and the Moderates, Christian Democrats and Liberals about how they will govern, but the centre-right parties have said they will not countenance ministerial positions for the far right.

However, the SD's strong showing, making it the second largest party - with more than 20% of the poll - puts it in a strong position to extract concessions for its support in parliament.

"Now the work begins to make Sweden good again," the SD leader, Jimmie Åkesson, wrote on Facebook.

Ulf Kristersson, whose Moderate party came third with 19% and who is in line to become prime minister, thanked voters and said: "Now we will have order in Sweden."

Given the closeness of the vote, all the parties had refrained from making statements about a possible new government since polling closed on Sunday. However, key battlegrounds for a future rightwing coalition with SD influence have become clear.

Swedish television's flagship news magazine on Tuesday aired a short interview with the head of the Swedish Committee Against Antisemitism, who expressed concern that the result might encourage racists and repeated earlier accusations that the SD are ambiguous over whether Jews can be Swedes.

Björn Söder, formerly party secretary for the SD and a central figure in its leadership, accused the broadcaster of bias and demanded that public service broadcasting should be "fundamentally reformed".

The narrow majority enjoyed by the right, however, promises to make any future government fragile and vulnerable to individual parliamentarians voting with their conscience. One Liberal party MP yesterday promised to try to bring down a government with SD involvement if her election was confirmed.

"I went to the polls to defend human rights and freedoms," Romina

Pourmokhtari told Swedish media. "That is where we Liberals will have to aim our fire in the coming years."

After emerging from the country's violent neo-Nazi groups in the late 1980s, the Sweden Democrats have made strenuous efforts to exclude racists and extremists and present themselves as a socially conservative party defending national traditions and culture. But a halt to immigration from non-European countries is a central plank of the party's politics and key to its electoral success. Its policy of "open Swedishness" holds that anybody can become Swedish if they learn the language and adopt the culture, but the notion of a Swedish Muslim appears to lie outside this approach, researchers say.

Sweden has become one of Europe's most ethnically mixed nations since large-scale asylum-based immigration began in the 1990s and accelerated after the collapse of the Arab spring. For many years, the SD was the only party opposing immigration, which the party links to the rise of gun and gang criminality among second-generation immigrant youth in Swedish cities.

"This is a historic moment, an era has come to an end," said Jonas Hinnfors, a politics professor at Gothenburg University. "We don't yet know the magnitude of the change to come, but for the past 50 or 60 years there has been a steady development towards broadly social liberal values, individual freedoms and minority rights, to which both left and right have contributed."

"Whatever happens now, depending on the extent that the SD will be able to exert influence, that development has probably come to an end and we will see a rolling back of some of the things we have taken for granted."

There was likely to be a new approach to the media, more money for law and order, and a period where Swedishness and loyalty to Swedish values defined from above would permeate school and university courses, libraries, culture and the civil service, Hinnfors said. "The direction is clear."

Smoking 'may cause asthma in children two generations on'

Denis Campbell

Health policy editor

Children are much more likely to develop asthma if their father was exposed to tobacco smoke when he was growing up, a new study has found.

And they are at even greater risk of suffering from the common lung condition if their father was a smoker himself, according to the international team of researchers.

The findings, published in the European Respiratory Journal, provide further evidence for the possible existence of a "transgenerational effect" in which smoking can

damage the health of people born two generations later.

"We found that the risk of non-allergic asthma in children increases by 59% if their fathers were exposed to secondhand smoke in childhood, compared to children whose fathers were not exposed."

"The risk was even higher, at 72%, if the fathers were exposed to secondhand smoke and went on to smoke themselves," said Jiacheng Liu, from Melbourne University, one of the co-authors.

The study was undertaken by a team of Australian, British and Sri Lankan researchers.

Dr Dinh Bui, another co-author, said: "Our findings show how the damage caused by smoking can have an impact not only on smokers but also their children and grandchildren."

Given their conclusions, men should try to avoid smoking if at all possible, to reduce the risk of affecting the health of their own sons or their offspring, Bui added.

Jon Foster, the health policy manager of Asthma + Lung UK, said: "This

research is truly shocking, showing that the negative effects of smoking can last for generations. The fact that children born today have a 59% increased risk of developing asthma if their father was exposed to passive smoking as a child shows the huge impact smoking has on other people's health."

The findings are based on the researchers' analysis of data about the health of 1,689 pairs of fathers and their offspring collected as part of the long-running Tasmanian Longitudinal Health Study in Australia.

The paper says: "Our findings suggest that when boys are passively



▲ The study is evidence of smoking's possible 'transgenerational effect'

exposed to their parents' tobacco smoke before the age of 15 years, their offspring have increased risk of non-allergic childhood asthma, but not allergic asthma.

"Paternal smoke exposure before the age of 15 years is a major risk factor for non-allergic asthma."

Prof Jonathan Grigg, the chair of the European Respiratory Society's tobacco control committee, who was not involved in the study, said it added to the evidence of smoking's intergenerational risk.

Children needed to be protected from further damage by ministers taking further robust action to curb smoking, he said. He called for stop-smoking services to be increased and for adults to be routinely asked at any NHS appointment if they smoked, and offered help to quit if they do.

Bui said epigenetic changes triggered by smoking - modifications to genes in which someone's DNA sequence is not altered - were the likeliest reason for the significantly raised risk of asthma in children whose father inhaled secondhand smoke in their youth.



Death of Queen Elizabeth II

1926-2022



◀ Two ages of Queen Elizabeths and Margaret Thatchers in *Handbagged*; it opened in London on Saturday

PHOTOGRAPH: TRISTRAM KENTON/THE GUARDIAN

reveals the Queen's sense of humour. The older Queen, says Bailey, "allows herself to be slightly cheekier in the play. I think she was trying to follow a protocol that she felt she could let go of a little bit as she got older. I'm the one mugging and pulling faces in the background, while young Liz is attempting to have a serious conversation with the young Thatcher."

What Cruttenden noticed in observing the Queen over the years, she says, slipping into the present tense, "is that she doesn't speak down to anybody, ever. She's not patronising. Really listening, very personally engaged, [when] it would be easy not to be."

The Queen gave her own performance, says Bailey, "that she had to give, in her view, to society - what she felt was her role and her destiny. It's quite a generous way of living your life in a sense, selfless. It's not like she could ever one morning wake up and think: 'Right, that's it.' She just kept on with it."

Is Her Majesty a socialist, wonders Thatcher. "That's the gag," says Bailey. "Of course she wasn't a socialist, but she certainly believed that society was an entity, and that she symbolised that society." She tried to be unifying; Thatcher was divisive.

"She'd come out of the war at a time when there was a national health service emerging, there was state broadcasting, there was the welfare state. There's a lot of that in the play. Then along came Thatcher in the 80s and started to strip all that away. It must have been very distressing."

She pauses. "I say 'must have' - that is in my imagination." It feels pertinent to be doing the play now, she adds, "when those values are being undermined and left in the trash can, it feels".

On the day after the Queen's death, they were in rehearsals and both actors started welling up during one speech. They say the emotion took them by surprise. Cruttenden was pleased to "push through it in rehearsal", knowing that on stage, she'd be fine. Bailey dealt with it by channelling the Queen herself. "I thought to myself: look, she'd have just got on with it."

Handbagged is at the Kiln, London, until 22 October

'Can we stage this now?' Actors' fears prove

false as curtain goes up on royal comedy

Emine Saner

They all wondered, says actor Marion Bailey, "can we do this play now?" *Handbagged* was due to begin previews at the Kiln theatre in London last Friday, then news broke of the Queen's death. That performance was cancelled but the cast took to the stage on Saturday, with some trepidation. How would audiences react to a play about the Queen's meetings with Margaret Thatcher?

On stage, they held a minute's silence and the director, Indhu Rubasingham, gave a speech. "But

the audience seemed to be up for it immediately," says Bailey, who plays the older version of two Queen Elizabeths (reprising her role from the original 2013 production). "They wanted to laugh. They wanted to, on some level, celebrate the Queen."



▲ The Queen and PM with Helmut Kohl and Ronald Reagan in 1984

Abigail Cruttenden, who plays the younger Queen, says: "People are really ... wanting to see her and connect with her." There is new resonance to her lines, many taken from real life, "and you're aware of it for the audience".

Moira Buffini's play imagines the conversations between the Queen and Thatcher. Despite superficial similarities - their ages, the hair, the handbags, both female leaders in a male world - here they are poles apart. It's a sign of the Queen's political inscrutability that it doesn't feel too far-fetched that Buffini imagines her as something of a socialist, whose values are wildly at odds with Thatcher's.

"Although she's teased slightly, and gently," says Bailey, "[in the

play] the Queen is kind of the goodie, compared with Thatcher. She's the one that represents decency and care for society."

Both actors have played royalty before - Bailey was the Queen Mother in *The Crown*, and Cruttenden played Elizabeth I in the play *Swive* [Elizabeth] - but neither compare to the omnipresence of the late Queen.

To prepare, they watched documentaries and footage of her. Getting the voice right was key, says Cruttenden. Both actors have new appreciation for the Queen's stamina. "My arm is aching from holding the handbag," says Cruttenden, with a laugh. "Not to mention the feet," says Bailey.

Handbagged, thinks Cruttenden,

God Save the King Frenchman leads the way on new anthem

Jim Waterson

Media editor

If you want to play a recording of the UK's new national anthem then you'll probably have to rely on an unlikely source: a French opera singer.

The accession of Charles III has made existing recordings of God Save the Queen redundant, with the official lyrics updated to reflect the fact

that a man is on the throne and pay tribute to a "gracious King".

Yet because Queen Elizabeth II became monarch in 1952 there has been little reason for anyone to release a version of God Save the King for the last 70 years, while a handful of older recordings were made using more basic technology with old-style gramophone records in mind.

As a result, the only high-quality version of the current British national

anthem easily available on streaming services such as Spotify is by Arnaud Kientz, a 51-year-old Parisian opera singer and teacher.

He said he had made the recording in 2017 while singing other anthems: "I'm an opera singer and I was asked [by a record label] to record *La Marseillaise*. Maybe the only anthems more famous in the world [are] God Save the Queen and the American one. The year after they asked me to record God Save the Queen - and God Save the King." Kientz insisted there was no particular plan to have the version ready for this eventuality: "We weren't thinking at all about the Queen's death and we are very

sorry about that, all the world is. The woman was so important in our life."

Kientz's recording of God Save the King had been largely ignored until now but has picked up hundreds



▲ A marching band accompanied the procession to the lying in state

and thousands of plays in the past week. While many public events simply play the unchanged instrumental version, at the moment it is a Frenchman who has the market for the lyrical version to himself.

Some record labels have already started changing the titles of old instrumental recordings of God Save the Queen. Other recordings are likely to be issued soon. But at the moment it is much easier to find a recording of Liechtenstein's national anthem *Oben am Jungen Rhein* (High Above the Young Rhine), an ode to the microstate's alpine location which shares the same melody as its British equivalent.



Death of Queen Elizabeth II

1926-2022



◀ The Queen's coffin, topped by a wreath and the imperial state crown, rests on a catafalque at Westminster Hall yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH:
LINDA NYLIND/
THE GUARDIAN

▶ William and Harry were side by side as the Queen's coffin made its way to Westminster Hall

PHOTOGRAPH:
VICTORIA JONES/PA



Amid the pageantry and the grief, a monarch takes her place in history

◀ Continued from page 1

Her coffin, with its wreath of white roses, white dahlias and foliage including pine from Balmoral and pittosporum, lavender and rosemary from the gardens at Windsor, had been borne from the palace on the George gun carriage of the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery for its 38-minute journey, the same gun carriage that had borne the coffins of her father and mother.

Behind it walked her four children, led by the King in field marshal uniform. They walked solemnly in keeping with the funeral military pace of 75 steps to the minute. In a symbol of unity, the Prince of Wales and Duke of Sussex, the former in RAF No 1 uniform, the latter as a non-working royal in morning suit and military medals, walked side by side, as they had memorably done 25 years earlier behind the coffin of their mother.

Inside the hall the catafalque, draped in purple, stood ready. Only the faint sound of Big Ben tolling at one-minute intervals, and the distant firing of minute guns from Hyde Park, broke the overwhelming silence.

Around 40 of the Queen's wider family were standing in line on one side of the hall: the Queen's niece and nephew, her grandchildren, cousins and their children.

They were joined by seven of her ladies in waiting, all in black dress, hats and pearls, and clutching handbags, in one last act of devoted attendance on their royal mistress.

The procession's progress was marked as the drumbeat of the military band and strains of Beethoven and Mendelssohn grew louder as it neared.

The Queen Consort, the Princess of Wales, the Countess of Wessex and the Duchess of Sussex, who had all arrived by car, waited by the entrance as the gun carriage came to a halt.

Charles and the senior royals saluted and the royal wives curtsied as it was carried by a bearer party inside and gently placed on the high catafalque, with the coronation orb and gold sceptre next to her crown.

The royal family, led by the King and Queen Consort, then slowly lined up in front of the catafalque, which was flanked with one towering yellow candle at each corner of the wide scarlet platform.

In ceremonial uniforms of gold, crimson and blue braid, almost as historic as the hall itself, Black Rod, the lord great chamberlain, the lord chancellor and the Speaker processed through the hall.

The processional cross of Westminster, taken from Westminster Abbey, was carried by the crucifer. It will remain at the head of the coffin throughout the lying in state. A short service was conducted by the archbishop of Canterbury supported by the dean of Windsor.

A double tap on the stone floor from the stick of the officer of the watch signalled the start of the first



▲ Princes William and Harry at the funeral of their mother in 1997

vigil. They will continue around the clock throughout the four days of the lying in state.

Four officers from the Household Cavalry, two from the Life Guards and two from the Blues and Royals had the honour of the first vigil. Resplendent in plumed helmet and gleaming cuirasse breastplates, they descended the stone steps in thigh-high ceremonial boots and mounted the catafalque one at each corner.

They turned slowly to face outwards from the coffin, then lowered their swords to the ground. The four would remain motionless, heads bowed, hands folded on to the hilt of their swords, through their 30-minute vigil. The gentlemen at arms took up their position around the catafalque.

As they took up watch, the royals each bowed and curtsied as they walked in front of the coffin before processing out in pairs.

Unlike the other senior royals, Harry and Meghan held hands as they walked out. They were followed by the MPs and peers who had been chosen to attend.

British monarchs since Edward VII have lain in state in this same hall, as well as the Queen's first prime minister, Sir Winston Churchill.

In life, she had sat within its walls on many occasions: to celebrate milestones such as her silver, golden and diamond jubilees, to mark significant moments such as 50th anniversary of the second world war, to receive and made addresses, even to celebrate the 300th anniversaries of the revolutions of 1688 to 1689.

Now, in death, and with this moment, Britain's longest-reigning monarch also passes into its 900-year history.

Procession Princes are side by side in walk to Westminster

Robert Booth

The Prince of Wales and Duke of Sussex walked side by side behind the Queen's horse-drawn coffin yesterday as her body was led from Buckingham Palace to lie in state at Westminster Hall, before Monday's state funeral.

The Queen's grandsons followed the same route down the Mall and Whitehall 25 years ago when as children they followed their mother's coffin on foot to her funeral after she was killed in a car crash in Paris.

The Duke of Sussex wore morning dress, as a result of protocol that non-working royals cannot wear military uniforms at such public occasions.

Reporting of that fact appeared to irk the duke and a spokesperson for him issued a statement late on Tuesday that appeared to ask the press to stop talking about it.

"His decade of military service is not determined by the uniform he wears and we respectfully ask that focus remain on the life and legacy of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II," they said. The duke served as an army captain and was deployed on two tours of Afghanistan. He wore his medals and honours. The Duke of York was also wearing morning dress rather than military uniform after he became a non-working royal following the scandal over his association with the convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

The Prince of Wales has previously described the "very long, lonely walk" as "one of the hardest things I've ever done", while the Duke of Sussex said later: "I don't think any child should be asked to do that, under any circumstances."

The princes' role in the Queen's procession created fresh echoes of that moment but also reflected the efforts both men have made to show a publicly united front since their grandmother's death.

The Prince and Princess of Wales



▼ The crowd at Whitehall watching the procession; bottom, an aerial view showing guardsmen beside the coffin. PHOTOGRAPHS: ANTONIO OLMOS/THE GUARDIAN; TOBY MELVILLE/AFP/GETTY



left the ceremony at Westminster Hall walking side by side behind the Earl and Countess of Wessex. The Duke and Duchess of Sussex followed them, the only couple holding hands.

On Saturday, Harry and his wife, Meghan, and William and his wife, Kate, had arrived by car together for a 40-minute walkabout at Windsor, where they spoke at length to members of the public.

'We now honour my father in his new role as King Charles III'

Prince Harry



▲ The Prince and Princess of Wales, William and Kate, and the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, Harry and Meghan, at Westminster Hall. PHOTOGRAPH: REUTERS

Their appearance followed tensions between the brothers in the more than two years since January 2020, when the Duke and Duchess of Sussex announced their decision to "step back" from royal duties.

From their home in California, Harry and Meghan gave an interview to Oprah Winfrey in which she made claims about possible racism in the royal household and that the then Duchess of Cambridge made her cry in a row over dresses at her wedding.

King Charles has been careful to speak warmly of his younger son and his wife in statements since the Queen's death. In his televised address to the nation on Friday, he said: "I want also to express my love for Harry and Meghan as they continue to build their lives overseas."

In his written tribute to his beloved "Granny", Harry said: "We now honour my father in his new role as King Charles III."

The last time Charles and his sons were seen together in public was at the service of thanksgiving for the Queen in St Paul's cathedral during the jubilee celebrations in June.

In April 2021, they walked behind the Duke of Edinburgh's coffin at his funeral with their cousin, Peter Phillips, sandwiched between them.

Lying in state Mourners tell of 'emotional' experience

Emine Sinmaz

The first mourners to see the Queen lying in state yesterday have told how they were overcome with emotion as they paid their respects.

Some doffed their hats, others said prayers and shed tears, while one woman said she wanted to sing Ave Maria.

Vanessa Nathakumaran was the first person to file past the coffin in the ancient Westminster Hall. The 56-year-old Londoner, who had queued from 11.30am on Monday, said she had tried not to cry as the extraordinary scene hit her.

"It was an emotional experience. I was fighting back tears as I approached the coffin and I managed to dignify myself," she said. "I wanted to do something so I said prayers for

the Queen, thanked her for her great service and wished her peace and rest. I'm from London so I felt like I was leading the crowd, as I was the first in the queue."

Anne Daley, the second person in the queue, described it as a "shattering and incredibly upsetting" experience. She said she had been moved by the setting and seeing the Queen's coffin draped in the royal standard, with the imperial state crown and flowers on top.

The 65-year-old, from Cardiff, added: "It was total silence. You felt like singing Ave Maria, it was that kind of atmosphere. It was just for seconds but the wait was totally worth it."

Monica Farag joined the queue yesterday morning and was the tenth in line. Clutching a white feather, the 61-year-old said: "No words can describe the feelings I had in that moment in there just now."

"It was just a few seconds but it was a wonderful feeling and very solemn."

"To complete it, as I stepped outside, a bird dropped a small, white feather, which I have kept."

Fighting back tears, she added. "As a Catholic, I did a sign of the cross and said my little prayer and did a curtsey."



'I'm excited like a little kid'

The crowds lining up to bid farewell to the Queen

**Emily Dugan
Emine Sinmaz
Matthew Weaver**

Joyce Dawson, 54, from Middlesbrough was watching the news on Tuesday night when she decided to make her first ever visit to London to see the Queen lying in state. "I texted my daughter and said: 'We have to go to London tonight,'" she said. "It was a spur of the moment thing."

Dawson and her daughter Shelby, 26, took the midnight coach from Middlesbrough to join the queue at 8am yesterday.

She was one of tens of thousands who yesterday flocked to the capital for the first chance to glimpse the Queen lying in state in

Westminster Hall. "It's just nice to be a part of this," Joyce said, while she waited. "It's exciting. I'm dead excited, I'm like a little kid."

In a nation famous for perfecting the orderly queue, those lining up to snatch a few seconds alongside the Queen's coffin proved no exception.

By 5pm, when the first members of the public filed into Westminster Hall, the line snaked back across the capital for around three miles - crossing the river and stretching all the way to London Bridge.

Outside the Palace of Westminster, the sunshine initially gave the occasion a relaxed atmosphere. People came prepared with chairs, blankets and picnics, while some sipped drinks from the Red Lion pub. But once the coffin arrived, and later, when the first

in line stepped inside the hush of Westminster Hall, the mood changed markedly.

Several had waited days for this moment, enduring rain then sun, stringent security and officially sanctioned queue jumping by MPs.

In a reverential hush they descended the steps of the 11th-century hall to pay their last respects to the Queen, many still wearing the yellow wristbands that marked their place in the queue.

Some had been waiting for up to three days, but it took them little more than three minutes to file past the purple-clad catafalque beneath the coffin.

A few crossed themselves as they reached the coffin. Most bowed or curtsied. Some could be seen wiping away tears, but most stoically made their way

through the hall on a newly laid carpet. Vanessa Nathakumaran was the first in line. The 56-year-old Londoner, who queued from 11.30am on Monday, said she tried not to cry as the scene hit her.

"It was an emotional experience. I was fighting back tears as I approached the coffin and I managed to dignify myself," she said. "I wanted to do something so I said prayers for the Queen, thanked her for her great service and wished her peace and rest."

Most took one last look back at the coffin before they left the hall and obediently followed the instruction to stay quiet as they made their way through. Only one sob could be heard in the first half an hour of the vigil.

Comforting arms were placed around the shoulders of those struggling to hold back tears, while others gripped hands tightly. As the



▲ A selfie with the archbishop of Canterbury on route to Westminster

▲ Pallbearers carry the Queen's coffin into Westminster Hall yesterday past members of the royal family PHOTOGRAPH: OLI SCARFF/AFP

public filed past the coffin on one side, MPs, peers and parliamentary staff, who didn't have to queue, went down the other side.

The queue outside continued to grow as night fell and the hall will be open 24 hours a day until 6.30am on Monday, ahead of the funeral later that day.

As many as 750,000 people are expected to make the journey, and the queuing system has capacity to run for 10 miles. Numbered and coloured wristbands are being given to everyone in line, allowing them to leave their spot briefly for sustenance or to use one of the 500 portable toilets placed along the route.

The procession of the coffin from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Hall yesterday also drew many thousands of people, who began to line the Mall from the early morning, hoping to glimpse the marching royal family as well as the casket bearing the Queen.

Standing room on the route reached capacity more than 40 minutes before the parade left and the roads were closed off. As the procession left the palace at 2.22pm and made its way up the Mall,

▼ The King, Prince William, and Princess Anne salute the coffin, while Princes Andrew and Harry, in civilian dress, bow their heads

PHOTOGRAPH: BEN STANSALL/POOL/AFP/GETTY



▲ Camilla, the Queen Consort, arrives at Westminster Hall

children perched on their parents' shoulders while others unfolded stools to get the best view.

Those that could not see raised their phones like periscopes to record that they had been there.

Commenting for the BBC, Fergal Keane called the drumbeat of the band that led the procession a "metronome of grief." But while some in the crowd blinked back tears, many looked more intrigued than upset. Several sprinted ahead once the parade had passed to catch it for a second time.

Sarah Barnes travelled from Leicestershire with her sister-in-law Carol Barnes, 66, and Carol's daughter Clare Fell, 41. Draped in union flags, the trio pitched up on Whitehall around 6.30am.

"We left Leicestershire at 4.30am and we are here to pay our final respects to the Queen," said Sarah, 56, from Sutton in the Elms. "We all felt we wanted to be here and it did not matter how long it would take."

The family have been to several royal weddings and jubilees, but Barnes said this time the atmosphere was "more sombre, more reflective".

When the Queen's coffin arrived outside Westminster Hall at 3pm, the crowd fell silent. One woman yelled "God bless the Queen" while a few others shouted "God save the King".

Lynne Tracey, 70, from Marlow in Buckinghamshire, said: "I found the procession incredibly moving, I was crying. "I was overcome by the love that everyone has for the Queen for serving us for over 70 years."

Cheryl Thomas, who set off from Crowthorne, Berkshire, at 5.30am, also had a prime position at the front of the barrier in Westminster.

Fighting back tears, the 75-year-

old said: "I thought the procession was wonderful, it made me cry. People were respectful and I'm glad there was no shouting.

"I was particularly emotional because I saw the coronation, and the Queen has been with me my whole life. It's very sad."

For many who made the journey, marking the Queen's death was also about confronting personal grief.

Marcia Lewis arrived on an early train from Birmingham, to take a front row spot on the Mall. "We just thought we wanted to be a part of history, we have never done this before," she said.

The 58-year-old said she had been taken aback when she found herself crying when she learned of the Queen's death last Thursday. "I think it just brought back memories, because my mum passed away recently."

There were many children in the crowds, excited by the parent-sanctioned opportunity to skip school and witness history.

Adriana Valadez, 48, from Brixton in south London, took her eight-year-old daughter Amaya to see the Queen go past. Armed with tissues, they were up at 6.30am to make sure they had a good place to see the parade arrive in Westminster.

Amaya said she felt sad when she heard the news of the Queen's death. "It felt like 'what?!"' she said. "I was confused and sad because she has been a queen for 70 years. My mum cried and I cried a little bit."

Valadez, who is originally from Mexico, said: "I am alone in the UK so in a way the Queen was like a grandma for me, she represented stability. I was very sad when she died."

Several in the crowd grew up learning about the Queen in countries that were part of Britain's then recently crumbled empire.

The first time Mona Ibrahim, 70, saw the monarch was as a young girl in Sudan when Elizabeth II made her first state visit in 1965 after independence. "It was beautiful, really beautiful. Everybody was in the street and they had the flags," she recalled.

Surrounded by family and sitting on a plastic bag beneath a plane tree on the Mall, Ibrahim intended to spend the afternoon catching one final glimpse before joining the queue for Westminster Hall.

"I don't know how I'm going to live without her, really," she said.

Additional reporting Geneva Abdul

Sketch Zoe Williams



It won't make a republican love the royals, but you have to admire the quiet sincerity

From 11am yesterday people were filtering in to the Mall, to Horse Guards Parade, to Whitehall, to watch the procession of the Queen's coffin from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey. The crowd control was so much more intense than the crowd: huge metal barriers, greater than the height of two people, ran across landmarks such as Trafalgar Square and Parliament Street.

The mood was sombre thanksgiving rather than patriotic display. Tracy, 47, had come down from Lincolnshire with her husband, Neil. "I just felt that I needed to come. They've all got this really rubbish life," she said. "What do they do if they just want to go to the shops? They're people just like us, and there's a lot of pressure on them."

For those too young to remember the death of Diana, it must have looked a bit dystopian, as though the authorities had been predicting not a paying of respects but a riot. For those not too young, it was obvious what they had expected: a rerun of 1997, when the streams of people heading towards Kensington Palace were completely uncontrollable, and many of the individuals completely uncontrolled. People were honestly keening in the street back then; I worked in an office overlooking the spontaneous procession and you could hear these sounds, utterly unfamiliar, surprisingly loud.

This fostered, for many of us, a lifelong scepticism around outpourings of grief. The mood five days before the Queen's

funeral was completely different. Restraint, politeness and self-abnegation were qualities of Elizabeth II that people referred to often, and they were mirrored here. Nobody was there to make a scene. Nevertheless, if you're royal sceptic to begin with, the adulation involved in just turning up takes some getting your head around.

Tim Bott, 57, a retired policeman, said simply: "This was my chance to come and pay my respects to a woman who was formerly my boss." He had met the Queen once, in 1994, when she inspected his ceremonial guard in the Cayman Islands. "I felt that she completely connected. It's absolutely personal to you in that moment. And when you think of the millions of people she did that for - the service, the duty." He explained his medals: for length of service, for the silver and golden jubilees. Then a life-saving order from the Knights of St John, for rescuing a woman suffering a mental breakdown from a rooftop. It seems particularly important for those who have served to see the concept of service represented in both person and institution.

For those too young to remember Diana's death, the crowd control must have looked dystopian, like a riot was predicted



▲ People gathered on the route of the procession as the Queen was taken from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Hall PHOTOGRAPH: CARLOS BARRIA/REUTERS

Gareth Hodder, 50, was formerly in the Coldstream Guards. He had flown over from South Africa, to stand on the same spot where he had done birthday parades in the past, "standing here, for a long time, getting very hot". He said the figurehead embodied "a sense of service, selflessness, commitment, serving with your friends, you feel a sense of connection and a sense of pride when you see the royal family. It sounds pompous but it's not meant to."

Up towards St James's Park, Leigh Lewis, 72, Morris Wiseman, 74 and Vivien Korn, 72, were reminiscing about the coronation, which only Lewis would admit he could not remember. He loved the monarchy because "anything against authoritarianism works for me". All three returned to the *sotto voce* royalism of their Jewish emigre parents: Wiseman and Korn's escaping the Nazis, Lewis's born in the UK after his grandparents fled earlier antisemitic violence in eastern Europe.

"My father was immensely proud of the fact that he was able to vote, and attend the coronation," Wiseman said. Lewis agreed: "They were intensely proud of being here, being allowed to vote, being allowed to serve, being allowed to participate, being allowed in."

There was an element of more abstract respect, expressed by Sammy, 45, who had arrived with his 14-year-old nephew, Amali. "I'm not a royalist, but I have a passion for English history, constitutional history. The royal family is a living connection with that; some individuals more than others." Asked if he thought King Charles would manifest this connection as seamlessly as his mother, Sammy said carefully: "A lot of the factors determining that are outwith his control. But he's had quite an apprenticeship."

The O'Shaughnessys were there with their daughter, Amaya, 10, and son, Milen, 12. Jim, 44, explained: "These won't appreciate it now, but when they get to our age, they'll realise they might not ever see anything like this again." Nitiksha, 44, drew from the Queen "a great sense of comfort". "I don't think many countries could do what we do," Jim added, "have a democracy co-existing with the monarchy."

People always talk about the brand-building the royals do for Britain, and this was borne out by the tourists in the crowd. Anna Pawerova, 16, from the Czech Republic, said it was "emotional, really; we learned a lot about her at school, her early life, her experience of the war. We learnt about colonialism too, but not really in a bad way."

In this crowd, Prince Andrew went by many names, "the odd bad apple", "you're always going to get a few people in life who act differently to the others". It's doubtful a full-blooded republican would come away from this event loving the royals, but as a half-blooded republican, I can't help admiring the sincerity of royalists, their patient determination to see the best in people.



'An array of motivations' The expert unit protecting royals from harm and the obsessed before Queen's funeral

Jamie Grierson

At about 7am on 9 July 1982, Michael Fagan, a painter and decorator from London, broke into Buckingham Palace and startled Queen Elizabeth as she lay in her bedroom.

Exactly what unfolded within those private walls has since become clouded by myth and legend. The now-74-year-old later claimed the Queen simply asked "what are you doing here?" before bolting from her chambers, but whatever the truth of the encounter, it remains one of the most famous breaches of royal security in British history.

Fagan was not unique. The challenge posed by individuals infatuated with the royal family and other public figures is so significant that a little-known and elite unit was formed more than 15 years ago to tackle them.

The death of the Queen last Thursday is expected to put this specialist team of police officers, nurses and forensic psychologists under increased pressure as her funeral and associated events expose the royal family to an intense and prolonged period in the public eye.

The Fixated Threat Assessment Centre (FTAC) is a joint police and mental health unit set up by the

Home Office, the Department of Health and the Metropolitan police in October 2006 to assess and manage the risk to public figures from obsessive individuals.

The unit is staffed by 10 Metropolitan police officers, three full-time senior forensic nurses, a full-time senior social worker and a number of senior forensic psychiatrists and psychologists from the Barnet Enfield and Haringey NHS Trust.

It receives about 1,000 referrals a year of people who have engaged in threatening or harassing communications towards the royal family or politicians, of which about half go on to be investigated. They may then be referred to local health services.

"As is the case for any high-profile major public event, we will be drawing upon all relevant intelligence and information available to us to make sure that our policing operation is the best it can be," a FTAC spokesperson said.

Andrew Wolfe Murray is a former FTAC investigator and now a director of Theseus, a private firm that deals with the threat from fixated individuals on the private sector, with clients including celebrities and CEOs of major companies.

"The fixated tend to be individuals who are often isolated and who have developed an obsessive or pathological preoccupation with a particular cause or quest or a grudge,"



▲ Michael Fagan gained access to the Queen's bedroom at Buckingham Palace in 1982. FTAC gets up to 1,000 referrals a year about similar threats

Murray said. "This happens just as frequently in the private sector, whether it's a senior executive or employee at a bank or a high-profile sporting, literary or musical celebrity."

"Not all pose a risk of violence or physical disruption, and that's the main difference for us. We are concerned with all sorts of risk, including those of persistence, psychosocial harm, legal or reputational damage, for example."

Murray said there was often an established relationship between a private-sector target and the fixated, such as a disgruntled customer, but in the case of public figures such as the royals they are usually strangers.

Research suggests that a significant proportion of people who engage in the intrusive pursuit of public figures and other high-profile individuals may have an underlying mental health issue, he

added. Fixated individuals have targeted the royal family in a series of attacks.

From Alfred Adcock, a serial sex offender who lunged at Diana, Princess of Wales, and was later committed to a secure psychiatric hospital, to Ian Ball, who attempted to kidnap Princess Anne for a complex mixture of reasons including ransom and wanting his parking fines excused. He was committed to Broadmoor psychiatric hospital.

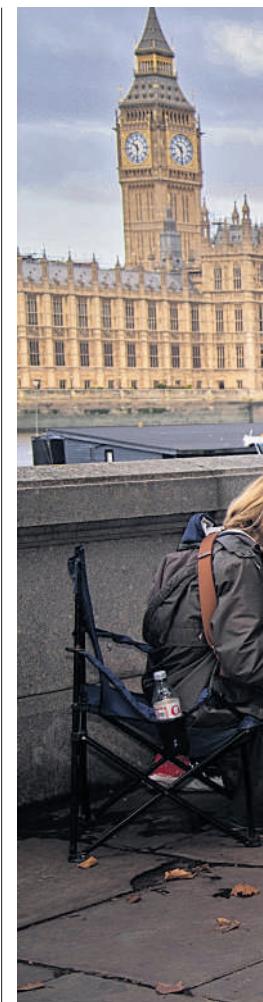
Others were resentful. Marcus Sarjeant, who was 17 in 1981 and feeling bitter about his failings and being unemployed, fired blanks at the Queen on Horseguards' Parade. He too was committed to a psychiatric hospital.

Murray said: "The majority of fixated individuals communicate their intent, what they want, what they want the recipient to do about it, and they tend not to do so anonymously. Because they communicate, it provides an opportunity to assess risk and so reduce the likelihood of the worst happening."

"There's an array of motivations why people might fixate on a celebrity or a business leader or a member of the royal family. It could be people seeking help for their own personal cause. It could be people in love, wanting love or with an intimate infatuation. It could be people who believe they're part of the royal family or at least that they should be"

Asked about the risk to the Queen's funeral, Philip Allen, the founding director of Theseus and a former security liaison manager for the royal household, said it was the same for "any big set-piece event, such as a sporting event".

"Some people are fixated on those they know will be attending, the intensity of a period of intrusion tending to fluctuate depending on whether the event and attendant media exposure is imminent, in progress or ended," he said.



▲ Night falls over Lambeth Bridge as people waiting to see the Queen's lying in state get closer to their destination

PHOTOGRAPH: KIN CHEUNG/AP

Andrew UK 'shielded prince' from US inquiry into his links to Epstein

Jamie Grierson

The Duke of York sported an array of military medals on a civilian morning suit as he joined the procession behind the Queen's coffin, amid claims that the British authorities protected him from US prosecutors investigating his ties to the sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Prince Andrew has been told he cannot wear his military uniform for the events marking the Queen's death, save during the lying-in-state



▲ Prince Andrew wearing military medals at the procession yesterday with Sophie, Countess of Wessex

vigil. The royal, now eighth in line to the throne, was stripped of his military patronages and use of the HRH title after he paid a financial settlement to Virginia Giuffre, who had accused him of sexual assault, a claim that he denied.

As the duke followed his mother's coffin from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Hall yesterday, fresh reports on the scandal emerged.

Geoffrey Berman, a former US attorney who had been leading an investigation into Andrew, wrote in a book, published on Tuesday, that US prosecutors were eager to talk to

the prince about his friendship with the billionaire financier and Epstein's former girlfriend, Ghislaine Maxwell, who was jailed on sex-trafficking charges in June.

Berman claimed Andrew had "stated publicly that he would cooperate with the investigation" but that "was not true". After wrangling with his lawyers, prosecutors tried to compel the prince to cooperate using a mutual legal assistance treaty request via the US state department.

Berman said such requests had always worked both ways before. "But that was not what happened with Prince Andrew. We got absolutely nowhere. Were they protecting him? I presume someone was."

Andrew's lawyers had rejected US accusations that he was not cooperating. In 2020 Blackfords, the London-based criminal law specialists, alleged that the US justice department had in effect rejected three offers of help volunteered by the prince.

Twitter users, meanwhile, have expressed disbelief that the Duke of York will continue to be a "councillor of state", in effect an official stand-in for the monarch. Councillors of state

are rarely called upon, although King Charles and Prince William stood in for the late queen in the last state opening of parliament due to her mobility issues.

Charles does not appoint his counsellors of state. By law they must include the sovereign's spouse and the next four people in the line of succession who are over the age of 21. This means Princess Beatrice, the Duke of York's daughter, is now a counsellor of state.

Many questioned why laws could not be rewritten to give more freedom in the selection so that Andrew might be stripped of the role but also so that Princess Anne could step in.

She is unable to do this because when she was born male heirs had first right to the throne over any women due to male royal primogeniture.

The Succession to the Crown Act of 2013 gave women equal rights in the line of succession but applies only to those born after 28 October 2011.

Richard Fitzwilliams, a royalty expert, said there was "good reason" to change the law. "However, it can only be changed by parliament. Prince Andrew has no future as a senior working royal."

▼ Mourners queueing on the south bank of the Thames to view the Queen's lying-in-state yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: VIANNEY LE CAER/SHUTTERSTOCK



Paying their respects Plans in place for queue stretching up to 10 miles

**Ben Quinn
Aubrey Allegretti**

A security operation decades in the planning began yesterday, to regulate a queue that could stretch 10 miles through London, as tens of thousands gather to file past the Queen's coffin in Westminster Hall.

Colour- and number-coded wristbands were handed out to the line of mourners already stretching to Westminster Bridge and winding back to Southwark Park, where there are three miles of metal fences.



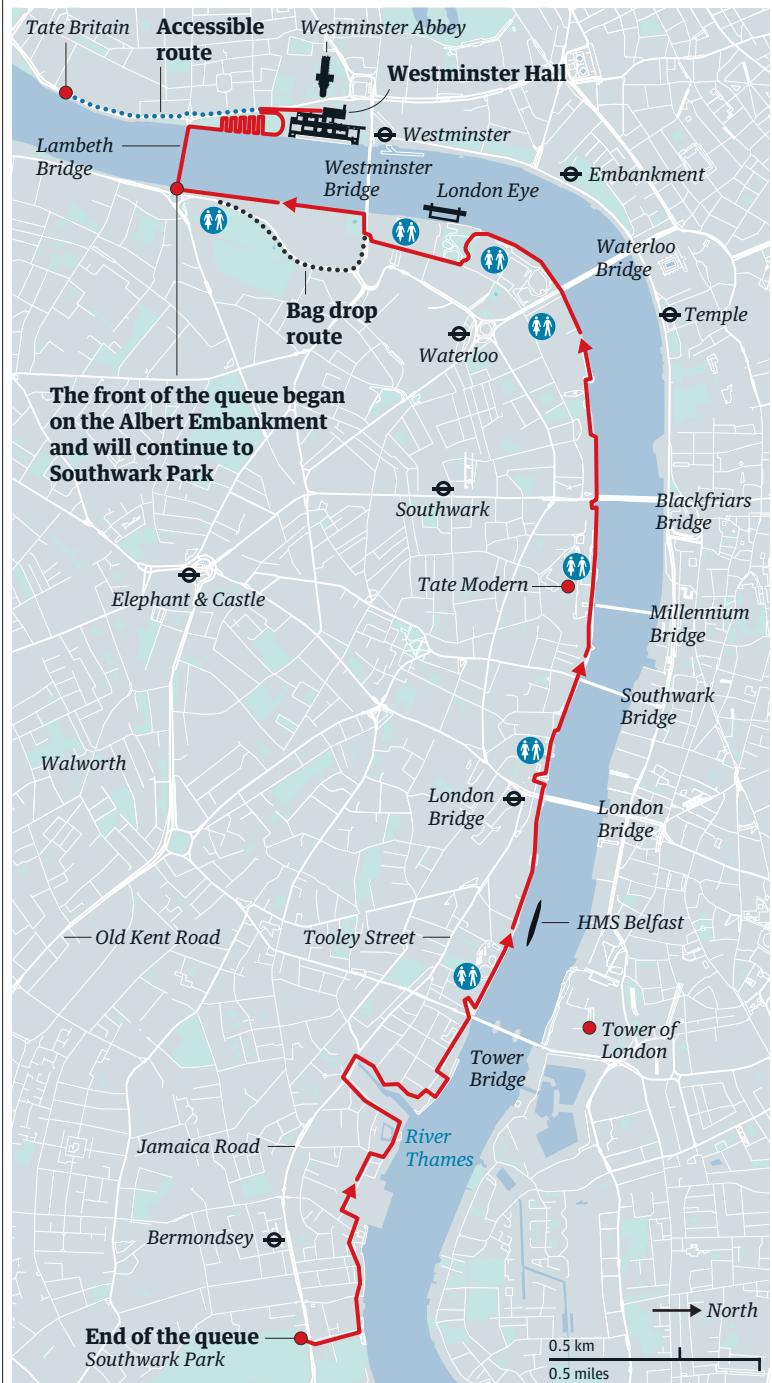
'It's the sort of endurance an athlete might find difficult'

Prof Keith Still
Crowd safety expert

A live online map will show the route and estimated wait times, which the authorities are warning could be as long as 30 hours. Airport-style security screening will take place near Westminster Palace.

But while a crowd-safety expert involved in past planning of royal events said the authorities had been

Where members of the public will queue to see the Queen lying in state



Source: Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

◀ The first members of the public admitted to the lying-in-state file past the Queen's coffin in two lines

PHOTOGRAPH: YUI MOK/PA

preparing for decades, he expressed concern that the public might underestimate the scale of what lay ahead.

"We are talking about the challenge of having so many people from a very wide age group, perhaps with large sections tending towards the elderly, who are going to be on their feet for over a day and it's the sort of endurance an athlete might find difficult, even before weather is taken into account," said Prof Keith Still, a visiting professor of crowd science at the University of Suffolk and a specialist in crowd safety.

"My fear would be that they have grossly overestimated their ability to stand for that length of time," he said.

Troops are expected to back up more than 1,000 volunteers, stewards and Metropolitan police officers. Updates about the start of the queue and expected length will be shown on large screens along the route, as well as on the social media feeds of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. People with

disabilities have been advised to join a separate queue at Tate Britain.

At any one time, those marshalling the mourners will include: 779 professional stewards, 100 civil service volunteer marshals, 40 adult scouts, 30 members of First Aid Nursing Yeomanry, 10 Red Cross volunteers, 30 multi-faith pastors, six Samaritans volunteers and two British Sign Language interpreters. Extra police and troops will also be on hand.

About 500 portable toilets have been installed along the route with people handed colour- and number-coded wristbands to allow them to leave the queue to get food and drink then retake their spot.

When mourners make it to the front at Lambeth Bridge, they will be taken in batches to Victoria Tower Gardens to be checked by security, and told to turn all phones off and deposit large bags.

Measures taken by the police include the deployment of snipers and a warning by the Met against anyone using a drone without permission in an area covering much of central London.

Mourners will be able to file past the coffin until 6.30am on Monday.



Redundancy news given to King's staff in mourning 'heartless' - union

Rachel Hall and Emily Dugan

A civil service trade union has criticised the decision to notify King Charles's staff of redundancies during the period of mourning as "nothing short of heartless".

The Guardian reported on Monday that up to 100 employees at the King's former official residence, including some who have worked there for decades, received notification that they could lose their jobs following his accession to the throne.

Mark Serwotka, the general secretary of the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS), said: "While some changes across the households were to be expected, as roles across the royal family change, the scale and speed at which this has been announced is callous in the extreme. Least of all because we do not know what staffing the incoming Prince of Wales and his family might need."

He added that the union, which represents some palace workers, was working to ensure staff have "full job security", and that it continued to support other royal staff concerned that their "futures are thrown into turmoil by this announcement at this already difficult time".

Clarence House staff are not believed to have a recognised union available to them.

Funeral day McDonald's joins closures

McDonald's has said it will shut its UK restaurants as a mark of respect during the day of the Queen's funeral on Monday.

The fast-food chain, which has 1,300 sites across Britain, said outlets would be allowed to reopen at 5pm.

McDonald's tweeted: "In honour of HM Queen Elizabeth II, and to enable everyone at McDonald's to pay their respects, our restaurants across the UK will be closed from midnight until 5pm on Monday 19th September."

Many high street retailers have also announced plans to shut. They include Argos, Asda, B&Q, Curry's, Holland & Barrett, Homebase, Ikea, John Lewis, Lidl, Morrisons, Odeon cinemas, Pets at Home and Primark.

However, some hospitality firms will continue to operate. The pubs group Stonegate will keep venues open on Monday and plans to show the Queen's funeral on screens. Staff and agencies

Clarence House, located next to St James's Palace in central London, is the official London residence of the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall. King Charles's and Camilla's offices were to move to the palace after the death of the Queen, and staff had expected to be transferred.

Some people in the crowd outside Buckingham Palace on Monday night were shocked at the Guardian's revelations about the handling of redundancies at Clarence House.

Christell Hobbs, 57, a regular attender at royal events, said: "I think it's sad. They have families they have to support."

Hobbs, who left Fairlight, near Hastings in East Sussex, first thing in the morning to see the Queen's coffin arrive on Tuesday evening, added: "Many of them have put in many good years of service and now they're told, 'We don't want you'. You have to be human about this."

Korina Massicot, 22, a politics student at Durham University from east London, agreed: "[These are] people who've been working hard and are faithful and loyal. Nobody deserves to be fired because someone dies."

Lexi, 26, a fashion student at Central Saint Martins in London, said: "It's quite shocking. I don't get it, she only just passed away. It's more important to get the funeral done - I don't think this was a good time to do it right now."

Many in the crowd refused to believe the news, even after they had been shown it online. One woman said it was "scaremongering", while another said that people were not "prepared to hear negative stuff at the moment".

Private secretaries, the finance office, the communications team and household staff are among those who received redundancy notices during the thanksgiving service for the Queen at St Giles's Cathedral in Edinburgh on Monday. The BBC reported that it understood the royal household had received legal advice that the information should be shared with staff at the earliest opportunity, despite efforts to delay the announcement until after the Queen's funeral.

Staff who are made redundant are expected to be offered alternative employment across all royal households, assistance in finding new jobs externally and an "enhanced" redundancy payment beyond the statutory minimum.

A small number of staff providing personal support to Charles and Camilla will remain in post, though no final decisions are understood to have been taken ahead of the consultation period, which begins after Monday's funeral.



Wealth of sovereign Tax-free rules and secret wills amid total assets of at least £17bn

Joanna Partridge

The sovereign and the wider royal family have three main sources of income - the crown estate, Duchy of Lancaster and Duchy of Cornwall - much of which is derived from ownership of land and property across the country including seabed areas around the British Isles, amounting to total assets worth more than £17bn.

Crown estate

The largest land and property holdings of the monarch are managed by the crown estate. These include sizeable chunks of central London - the monarch is one of the largest property owners in the West End - and farmland, offices, and retail parks from Southampton to Newcastle.

The monarch owns the seabed and half the foreshore around large parts of England, Wales and Northern Ireland, an asset that has become increasingly lucrative since the North Sea oil boom and, recently, from the auctions of

plots for offshore windfarms. The crown estate is also responsible for managing the entirety of the Windsor estate, which spans nearly 16,000 acres and includes parkland and ancient woodland, as well as the Ascot racecourse.

The total value of the properties owned by the crown estate was estimated at £15.6bn in the most annual accounts, released in June. The estate made a profit of almost £318m in the last financial year, a rise from the previous year as rent collection rebounded after Covid and offshore wind power grew.

Since 1760 the estate's net income has been surrendered to the government. This funding



▲ The Oval cricket ground, London, owned by the Duchy of Cornwall

▼ Prince William, the King, Prince Harry, Princess Anne and Sir Timothy Laurence follow the coffin

PHOTOGRAPH: JEFF J MITCHELL/GETTY



'Taken for granted' Conternation in Wales over new Prince

Steven Morris

While King Charles III and Camilla, the Queen Consort, are being greeted with pomp and ceremony during their visit to Cardiff on Friday, preparations will be under way for a modest but defiant event to be staged 100 miles north in the market town of Machynlleth.

The town's people will gather to mark Owain Glyndŵr Day, a celebration of the life and legacy of the last Welshman to be known as Prince of Wales, the title bestowed by Charles on William in his first speech as king.

"There will be some folk music, a few drinks, a bit of food," said Huw Morgan, one of the organisers. "I reckon it will be packed."

Certainly, the event is bound to be more pointed than usual, with Charles's announcement that William would become Prince of Wales - Tywysog Cymru - going down badly with many nationalists and republicans. By yesterday, almost 25,000 people had signed a petition calling for the title to be abolished and activists have vowed to protest at the ceremonies in the Welsh capital. Morgan, a professor of astronomy, said: "There are lots



◀ The Queen crowns her son Charles, Prince of Wales at his investiture in 1969 at Caernarfon Castle in Wales

PHOTOGRAPH: AP

of people like me who don't care to hear about the royal family. They are entitled, they are rich and assume they rule over Wales." Morgan has nothing against the royals as individuals. "But they are symbols of oppression. The English royal family was imposed on Wales centuries ago."

Machynlleth, which bills itself as the ancient capital of Wales, is home to Glyndŵr's senedd-dŷ (parliament building), where the 15th century Welsh leader held an assembly after being crowned prince as he fought the English for an independent Wales.

Gail Jenkins, who runs the Caffi Alys next to the parliament house, said many people were upset by the alacrity of Charles's decision. "It didn't give us a chance to have our say. This would have been a great time to show unity and not impose this on us again."

A local Plaid Cymru councillor, Elwyn Vaughan, said there had

been a backlash: "People think they have been taken for granted."

Vaughan said there was some warmth for Charles and his thinking on the environment in Machynlleth and for William, who worked as a search and rescue pilot in north Wales. He said: "People have tried to show respect to those who do genuinely care about the royal family but they do feel insulted by this sudden announcement."

Charles's investiture in 1969 at Caernarfon Castle led to protests and years of bitterness. The idea of any sort of investiture angers many. Plaid Cymru's Westminster leader, Liz Saville Roberts, said: "Unlike the constitutional role of the monarch, the Prince of Wales is a purely ceremonial title. It is for the King to decide what he wishes to call his son. An investiture, however, funded by public money would give the Prince of Wales a semi-official role as a representative of our nation."

arrangement arose under George III, who agreed to hand over the income in return for a fixed annual payment, now called the sovereign grant. The sovereign grant was set at £86.3m for 2021-22, according to the royal household's annual financial statement. Prior to 2017 the Queen got 15% of the crown estate profits from the two previous years, while the rest was kept by the government. In 2017 this was increased to 25% for the following decade, to help pay for the £370m Buckingham Palace refurbishment.

The sovereign grant funds official travel, property upkeep, and operating costs of the monarch's household. Security costs are paid for by the public.

The Queen was not considered liable for tax on the sovereign grant, but voluntarily paid tax on her private income from land owned by the Duchy of Lancaster and property she personally owned.

The crown estate belongs to the reigning monarch, meaning it is owned by the monarch by virtue of their being on the throne, but is not their private property. King Charles is unable to sell any of the crown

estate and revenues from the estate do not belong to him. The crown estate passed from the Queen to Charles with no requirement to pay inheritance tax, the standard rate of which is 40% charged on the part of an estate above a certain threshold, to a maximum of £500,000 for each individual.

Reform of royal family funding, in 2012, with a new sovereign grant, meant the household became subject to the same audit scrutiny as other elements of government expenditure by the National Audit Office and parliament's public accounts committee.

Duchy of Lancaster

A second pool of income goes to the sovereign from the Duchy of Lancaster. The duchy was established more than 700 years ago and its estates have belonged to the monarch, who carries the title of Duke of Lancaster.

The duchy owns more than 44,478 acres of land in England and Wales, the majority of which is in Lancashire, Cheshire, Yorkshire, Staffordshire and Lincolnshire, and which includes farms, homes and



▲ Ascot racecourse, which is part of the Windsor estate, in Berkshire

commercial properties. The duchy also has assets including shops, offices and commercial buildings, many of which are in the Savoy area of central London, alongside some financial investments and homes.

In addition, the duchy owns limestone and sandstone quarries stretching from south Wales to North Yorkshire, which supply material to the UK construction industry. The duchy has rights to the foreshore from the midpoint of the River Mersey to Barrow-in-Furness.

The duchy had nearly £653m of net assets under its control at the end of March 2022, which provided a net surplus of £24m to the Queen.

Duchy of Cornwall

As Charles inherited the Duchy of Lancashire on accession to the throne, so the Duchy of Cornwall passed to his eldest son, William. This duchy owns more than 128,500 acres of land across 20 counties in England and Wales, stretching from Devon to Kent, and Nottinghamshire to Carmarthenshire. Much of the estate comprises farmland, but it also includes homes and commercial properties, forests, rivers and coastline, as well as the Oval cricket ground in central London and Dartmoor prison.

The duchy's net assets were valued at more than £1bn at the end of March, and the estate paid Charles an income of £21m for the year ending 31 March 2022, according to the duchy's accounts.

He voluntarily paid the top rate of income tax, of 45%, on the duchy's earnings, after deduction of official expenditure, but he was not considered liable for capital gains tax, and nor was the duchy considered liable for corporation tax. Charles' interests in areas such as architecture, sustainability and

organic farming, shaped the duchy. The question is whether William will take his own path, including with projects such as the residential development at Nansledan, an extension to the town of Newquay, in Cornwall, where more than 4,000 homes are being built.

Additional income

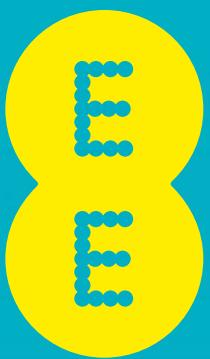
The Queen had personal wealth derived from assets including properties, such as the estates of Sandringham in Norfolk and Balmoral in Aberdeenshire, and her stable of racehorses. The royal stamp collection has been estimated at £100m.

The royal family's total wealth is estimated since much of the Queen's personal wealth has been kept private. Her net worth was estimated at £370m on the 2022 Sunday Times Rich List, a £5m increase from the previous year.

The details of many assets passed from one generation of the family to another upon death have been concealed, the Guardian has revealed, through legal applications that let the Windsors seal family wills.

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Death of Queen Elizabeth II

1926-2022



‘There hasn’t been closure’ Mourning in India muted by lack of colonial apology

Hannah Ellis-Petersen
Delhi

Over the course of her seven-decade reign, Queen Elizabeth II made three visits to India, a country she would herald for its “richness and diversity”. But it was her third and final trip in 1997 that is often considered the most significant.

India was celebrating 50 years of independence and on the Queen’s itinerary was a visit to Jallianwala Bagh, the site in the city of Amritsar where in 1919 a British general ordered thousands of peaceful protesters to be shot, a massacre that was one of the bloodiest episodes of British colonial rule over India. The hope among many was that the Queen’s visit would finally bring about a long-awaited apology for colonial atrocities. But in the end, the apology never came.

“It is no secret that there have been some difficult episodes in our past,” said the Queen in her address the night before her visit.

“Jallianwala Bagh, which I shall visit tomorrow, is a distressing example. But history cannot be rewritten, however much we might sometimes wish otherwise.”

When Queen Elizabeth was born in 1926, her grandfather was still Emperor of India, which was under British rule for 200 years.

But by the time she ascended to the throne in 1952, India had been independent for five years. At her wedding to Philip Mountbatten in 1947, the Queen was given a handkerchief by India’s best known freedom campaigner, Mahatma Gandhi, and it was said to remain one of her most treasured possessions.



▲ Art students in Mumbai display paintings in tribute to Charles III

The somewhat muted response to the Queen’s death in India reflects her complex position in a nation where the British monarchy is still seen as a lasting symbol of colonial rule. India’s last viceroy before independence was the Queen’s distant cousin Lord Louis Mountbatten – also Prince Philip’s uncle – who oversaw the bloody partitioning of the country into the nations of India and Pakistan.

India remains the largest country in the Commonwealth. After the Queen’s death broke, a national day of mourning was declared and all flags were lowered to half-mast.

“Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will be remembered as a stalwart,” tweeted India’s prime minister, Narendra Modi. “She provided inspiring leadership to her nation and people. She personified dignity and decency in public life.”

But though multiple Bollywood stars posted effusive condolences over the Queen’s death on social media, there was otherwise little public outpouring of grief.

Jyoti Atwal, a professor of history at Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi, said that in India, the institution of the monarchy was still lambasted as a symbol of British rule. Hours before the death of the Queen was announced, Modi oversaw the renaming of Rajpath, a central avenue in the colonial-era district of New Delhi. Modi said it had been a “symbol of slavery”, which would now be erased.

However, Atwal said that on a personal level, the Queen’s visits to India, particularly her first in 1961, had earned her much affection and admiration – many people can still recall watching her riding through Delhi in her royal coach buggy.

“The Queen represented the oppression of British rule and

▲ On her third and final visit to India in 1997, above, the Queen said: ‘History cannot not be rewritten’

PHOTOGRAPH: RAVI RAVEENDRAN/GETTY IMAGES

colonialism, but she was also viewed separately as a person, and people in India were very charmed by her visits, by that buggy culture,” said Atwal. “My mother still remembers the Queen’s visit in 1961; she was a child sitting in the front row when the Queen was travelling in the buggy. So it captured the public imagination even though it was clearly a remnant of the British Raj.”

Nonetheless, Atwal said, as the furore around the Queen’s visit to Jallianwala Bagh had demonstrated, in India there was a lasting expectation that the British monarchy should apologise for the injustices of colonial rule, which some view as an essential part of the process of decolonisation.

“There are large sections in India who still wanted an apology from the Queen and who still think there hasn’t been closure for the oppression of the Raj,” said Atwal.

Nonetheless, in India’s financial hub of Mumbai, one community made a heartfelt tribute to the Queen. Years ago, the city’s famed dabbawalas, who deliver hot food from homes to workplaces in tiffin boxes, caught the attention of the royal family, and two dabbawalas were invited to the wedding of Prince Charles and Camilla in 2005, where they breakfasted twice with the Queen.

“We share the grief of the family of King Charles,” said the Mumbai dabbawala association in a statement. “We are very sad to hear about the death of Queen Elizabeth II and all dabbawalas pray that her soul rests in peace.”

New Zealand MPs’ tributes mixed with criticism of monarchy

Tess McClure

Auckland

Honours and admiration were mixed with sharp criticism of a monarchy built on “stolen land, stolen resources, and stolen treasure” as New Zealand’s parliament gathered to pay tribute to the Queen.

Parliament held a special debate to allow politicians of all parties to acknowledge the monarch’s death. While all offered condolences to the royal family, a number of MPs also discussed the monarchy’s fraught and complex history.

“As I stand in this House as a representative of te Iwi Māori, we must always speak our authentic truth,” said the Māori party’s co-leader Rawiri Waititi. “The British empire and the power of its monarchy was built of stolen *whenua* [land], stolen resources, and stolen *taonga* [treasure].”

Waititi said that Māori held clear protocol (*tikanga*) that the dead should be mourned, and the family should have time to grieve. But he also said the person of the Queen could not be separated from the institution. “I see a lot written on social media. The righteous anger of Indigenous people all over the world. I take those stories as stories I carry with me, and my *tikanga*,” he said.

A number of other Māori politicians reflected on the monarchy’s legacy in New Zealand – paying tribute to the royal family and their grief, while acknowledging past wrongs.

The Greens’ co-leader Marama Davidson described the late Queen as “smart and aware”. She added: “She would not be surprised in the least about any peoples raising the role of the monarchy in oppressing the power of others, including here and countries around the world... She knew what she was a part of.”

Some of those wrongs were acknowledged by the Queen herself: in 1963 she described the treaty of Waitangi, which guarantees rights and sovereignty to Māori, as “imperfectly upheld” and in 1995 personally signed a crown apology to the people of Waikato-Tainui for atrocities and the stealing of land by the crown.

The foreign minister, Nanaia Mahuta, noted King Charles had spoken at a recent Commonwealth meeting in Rwanda about acknowledging past wrongdoing.

‘The empire and the power of its monarchy was built on stolen land’

Rawiri Waititi
Maori party co-leader



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Trial suggests daily vitamins could slow cognitive decline

Ian Sample
Science editor

A daily multivitamin and mineral supplement may reduce cognitive decline in older people, according to a US study that is the first to demonstrate that they may benefit ageing brain function.

The trial, involving more than 2,200 over-65s, suggests daily supplements may slow cognitive decline by about 60%, or nearly two years, with the most substantial effects seen in older people with a history of cardiovascular disease.

While experts in Alzheimer's disease and dementia are encouraged by the findings, they say larger studies are needed to confirm the effect

before recommending daily multivitamins to protect older people from cognitive decline.

"We provide the first evidence in a long-term, randomised controlled trial of older women and men that daily use of a safe, readily accessible and low-cost multivitamin-mineral can improve cognition," the researchers wrote in *Alzheimer's and Dementia*, the journal of the Chicago-based Alzheimer's Association. "This finding could have important public health implications for brain health and resilience against future cognitive decline."

With populations ageing around the world, dementia has become one of the main health challenges, but there are no drugs that can cure the common types. In the UK, about

850,000 people live with dementia, mostly Alzheimer's disease or vascular dementia. People over 65, and those with diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and depression are most at risk.

Researchers at Wake Forest University in North Carolina and Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston investigated whether a daily cocoa extract or multivitamins with minerals improved memory and other mental tasks in 2,262 older people. The researchers rated participants' "global cognition" before and during the three-year trial through tests involving word lists, number problems, verbal fluency and story recall.

Cocoa extract is rich in substances called flavanols and past research suggested they might benefit brain

function. The latest trial found daily cocoa supplements made no difference to cognitive performance.

Daily multivitamin-mineral supplements, however, appeared to improve cognitive scores, in particular for those with cardiovascular disease. The results suggest "either greater relative improvement or more protection from cardiovascular disease-related cognitive decline", the authors wrote.

Prof Laura Baker, co-principal investigator on the Cosmos study at Wake Forest University, said: "While these preliminary findings are promising, additional research is needed in a larger and more diverse group of people. Also, we still have work to do to better understand why the multivitamin might benefit cognition in older adults."

Prof Tara Spires-Jones, of the UK Dementia Research Institute at Edinburgh University, said the study was well conducted but most participants were highly educated white people. "It will be important to confirm that the results hold up in the wider population," she said.

Public at risk if policies on obesity are scrapped, doctors warn

Denis Campbell
Health policy editor

Abandoning policies to tackle obesity would be dangerous for public health and lead to people eating even more unhealthy food, a senior doctor and leading campaigner has warned.

Prof Graham MacGregor, specialist in cardiovascular health at Barts and the London hospital in London, said it was "a national scandal" if the reports were true. "Surely the government has a duty of care to their population?" he said. "Politicians are meant to be our servants. It's not their duty to prioritise the profits of the food industry. Scrapping anti-obesity measures, if that's what's happening, would be dangerous for the public's health."

MacGregor, also chair of the campaign group Action on Sugar, was responding to the Guardian's disclosure that ministers have instigated a review of strategies to address Britain's obesity crisis. Whitehall sources say Liz Truss is minded to abandon all existing policies, such as bans on "buy one get one free" offers and junk food adverts on TV before 9pm.

The "internal review of obesity policy" was ordered by the Treasury but is being undertaken by the Department of Health and Social Care, it is understood. The DHSC believes it needs to monitor the impact of restricting junk food promotion as the cost of living soars. Food inflation is running at 13.1%, figures published yesterday showed.

Tam Fry, chairman of the National Obesity Forum, said: "Once again the interests of big business have dangerously overridden the interests of the man in the street. Though £6bn might be the annual cost of treating obesity, the overall cost to the nation of obesity and the serious medical conditions that it triggers is £58bn a year. That is an obscene cost which the taxpayer has to bear."

Obesity contributes to at least 64,000 deaths a year in England, said William Roberts, CEO of the Royal Society for Public Health. "Far from being a nanny state," he said, "this is about the government making a sensible economic investment in the health and wealth of our nation and the NHS for decades to come."

The Institute of Economic Affairs, a free market thinktank, welcomed the review. "Scrapping policies that make food and drink more expensive during a cost of living crisis is a no-brainer," said Christopher Snowdon, its head of lifestyle economics.

Public health and medical groups fear the review's "internal" nature may mean they cannot make representations. The Guardian has asked the DHSC to clarify if they will be able to share their evidence with officials.



◀Erica, right, is being trained in conversational behaviours that include eye contact and gestures as well as laughter
PHOTOGRAPH: INOUE ET AL

Chortle or awkward giggle? AI robot taught to mimic different kinds of laughter

Hannah Devlin
Science correspondent

Laughter has many forms, from polite chuckle to contagious mirth. Now scientists have created an AI system that aims to recreate humour's nuances, by laughing in the right way at the right time.

The team behind the laughing robot, Erica, say it could improve conversations between people and AI systems. "We think that one of the important functions of

conversational AI is empathy ... so we decided that one way a robot can empathise with users is to share their laughter," said Koji Inoue, of Kyoto University, the research lead author.

Inoue and colleagues set out to teach their AI system the art of conversational laughter. They gathered training data from more than 80 speed-dating dialogues between male students and Erica, initially teleoperated by four amateur female actors. The data was annotated for solo laughs, social laughs (polite or embarrassed, for instance) and mirth

laughs. This data was then used to train a machine learning system to detect laughter, decide whether to laugh and to choose the appropriate type of laughter.

"Our biggest challenge ... was identifying the actual cases of shared laughter, which isn't easy, because as you know, most laughter is actually not shared at all," Inoue said.

The team tested Erica's "sense of humour" by creating four short

'Our biggest challenge was identifying cases of shared laughter ... most is not shared'

Joji Inoue
Kyoto University

dialogues with the shared-laughter algorithm integrated into conversation software. These were compared with scenarios where Erica didn't laugh or emitted a social laugh every time she detected a laugh.

The clips were played to 130 volunteers who rated the algorithm for empathy, naturalness, humanness and understanding.

The team said laughter could help create robots with their own character. "We think that they can show this through their conversational behaviours, such as laughing, eye gaze, gestures and speaking style," said Inoue, adding that it could take more than 20 years to make possible a "casual chat with a robot like we would with a friend".

Prof Sandra Wachter, of the Oxford Internet Institute, said: "I'd keep in mind that a robot or algorithm will never be able to understand you."

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Diversity scheme helped Truss into No 10, says former Tory race adviser

Aina J Khan

A former race adviser to Boris Johnson has defended the role of diversity schemes, saying Liz Truss would not be prime minister had it not been for such a programme.

Samuel Kasumu, who is standing to be the Conservative candidate for mayor of London, said the Tory party's "A-list" of priority candidates - championed by the then leader, David Cameron - had been instrumental in propelling Truss into No 10.

In 2006, Cameron promised to modernise the party by pushing for women and for candidates from minority ethnic backgrounds. The list included Truss and Priti Patel, who went on to be home secretary.

"Not everybody loved David Cameron's A-list," Kasumu said of the scheme, which was shelved a year later in favour of a general list. "But if it wasn't for the A-list, Liz Truss and a

number of others wouldn't have been elected in 2010."

Kasumu, 35, left Downing Street last April, after he resigned as Johnson's special adviser for civil society and communities in response to the furore over the government's controversial racial disparity report, which dismissed institutional racism.

Having resurfaced from writing a book about his time in No 10, Kasumu announced last week he was standing to be Tory candidate for mayor of London. On issues of the climate crisis, the need for more housing, and violent crime, Kasumu said he would be "unapologetic" in his approach.

As the only senior black adviser to Johnson before he quit, Kasumu's loyalty has not been dampened. But he acknowledged "bridges need to be built" with the black community, after Patel described the Black Lives Matter protests that swept the UK last year as "dreadful".

Instead of leaving the party, Kasumu decided to enact change from



'Not everybody loved David Cameron's A-list. But if it wasn't for the A-list, Liz Truss wouldn't have been elected in 2010'

within. Last month, he announced plans to launch the 2022 Group, an organisation aimed at improving the Conservatives' "toxic" brand and the party's relations with the UK's African-Caribbean communities.

"I'm optimistic that the 2022 Group will help to inspire a new generation into public life, and we will demonstrate that the Tory party is a broad church in every respect," he said.

With Kwasi Kwarteng as the first black chancellor of any government, Suella Braverman the second British-Indian home secretary, and James Cleverly as foreign secretary, Truss's new cabinet has been trumpeted as the most diverse in British history.

► Samuel Kasumu resigned as Boris Johnson's race adviser but hopes to become Conservative London mayor

PHOTOGRAPH: LINDA NYLIND/THE GUARDIAN

In her leadership campaign, Truss promised to reduce the cost of the civil service by scrapping diversity and inclusion jobs, which she said "distract from delivering on the British people's priorities".

While the Tories have generally eschewed all-women shortlists and quotas for ethnic minorities, Kasumu said diversity schemes were needed for the upward mobility of underrepresented groups, though "the way they are designed is important".

"The civil service fast stream probably have the most impressive," he said, referring to its targeting of undergraduates with disabilities and those from minority ethnic and lower socio-economic backgrounds.

A fresh approach was needed, Kasumu said, engaging with people from different backgrounds and bringing expertise to the table that comes with hiring people with lived experience.

"I would suspect, now that the [leadership] contest is over, people will increasingly become aware of the need to continue to invest in and try to find ways for us to live side by side as one nation," he added. "A nation of lots of people that, for many reasons, consider themselves outsiders."

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National Environment

Citizen scientists to monitor English rivers after official testing cut back

Sandra Laville
Environment correspondent

Citizen scientists are being trained as the best hope to protect rivers from pollution and over-abstraction as data suggests the Environment Agency's new monitoring programme leaves waterways unprotected.

A £7m programme to set up citizen science testing in 10 river catchments across England is under way in an attempt to standardise the way volunteers carry out the monitoring.

Modelled on the testing carried out by volunteers at Chesapeake Bay in the US, the third largest estuary in the world, the project aims to create thousands of volunteer scientists who will monitor their local rivers and provide a grassroots voice to protect them.

"What we want eventually is to have thousands of people volunteering and monitoring their local rivers," said Simon Browning of the Rivers Trust. "These could be 15-minute surveys or more detailed invertebrate surveys, which give us another level of data. We are trying to formalise the volunteer structure and standardise the monitoring so that we know the data is reliable.

"We want to bring along as many people as possible over all the river catchments across the country, so that by the end of the three years of the project there is no going back, we will see volunteers operating across the country."

The aim is for the monitoring to be complemented by a network of sensors and the information will be gathered and shared into a central visualisation platform. The project, which is led by the Rivers Trust and United Utilities, is funded via the water regulator Ofwat's first water breakthrough challenge, and involves academic partners.

Browning, who set up a citizen science monitoring project for the Westcountry Rivers Trust which is ongoing, said the Environment Agency testing regime was no longer comprehensive enough.

The EA should monitor the chemical quality of rivers, focusing on levels of phosphates, nitrogen, ammonia and dissolved oxygen. But citizen data gathered in Devon exposed the holes in the EA testing programme adopted last year, which involves randomly selected sites for spot testing.

"Some of our river catchments have gone from being monitored 12 times a year to nothing," said Browning. "So it is not so much a question of whether citizen science is better than EA monitoring but where there is no data at all, citizen science monitoring can empower communities and get

them involved in understanding the issues in their rivers so that they can speak up and protect them.

"We want to see real benefits at a local level, with communities in towns and villages taking the local environment by the scruff of the neck and speaking up for rivers."

Data from the River Creedy in Devon suggests the EA's phosphate tests have dramatically reduced in 20 years. In 2000 the EA tested 12 sites for phosphates on the Creedy 12 times a year, totalling 144 tests. Testing started to drop off in 2014 with sample frequency reduced dramatically to a low of four times a year. By last year monitoring of the original 12 sites was abandoned altogether.

Sites have been replaced with randomly selected areas as part of the new EA spot test system and there were 67 phosphate tests at these new sites in 2021, compared with a high of 189 tests conducted in 2002.

On the Creedy, one of the sample points is upstream of all sewage discharges, population centres or productive farmland. Critics say the system is likely to misrepresent the scale of water pollution.

"This detailed, local level spatial analysis [of the Creedy] reveals a huge shift in monitoring approach," said Browning. "Long-term sampling sites have been wound down and abandoned, new ones initiated with a much-reduced sampling regime – one year in five – and at 'random' locations that are in no way representative of overall water quality at the waterbody scale."

Annual funding from the government for monitoring has halved in recent years. The agency said its new River Surveillance Network testing was designed to provide a robust assessment of the health of rivers nationally over time.

An Environment Agency spokesperson said: "We continue to take tens of thousands of water quality samples every year as part of our work to keep rivers clean. In recent years technological advances and increased efficiency has enabled us to concentrate our resources, and target areas where the environment will benefit most."

67

EA spot tests for phosphates on the River Creedy in 2021, compared with a high of 189 tests in 2002

£7m

Cost of the programme to set up citizen science testing at 10 river catchment areas in England

▼ Russ Hatchett, a member of the Swallowfield Fishing Club, tests the Blackwater river in Berkshire using kits supplied by the Angling Trust

▼ Club members, from left, Stuart Singleton-White, Martin Moore and Martin Salter fear lasting damage

PHOTOGRAPHS: BEN GURR/THE GUARDIAN



'Everyone's just in love with the river. We all want to do anything we can to help the situation'

Richard Maude
Angler and river tester



On the hook Anglers join forces to expose polluted fishing areas

Helena Horton
Environment reporter

If you go down to quiet stretches of river in the UK at the right time of year, you are likely to find people peacefully standing on banks with fishing rods, gazing into the sparkling, steady flow, hoping to get a nibble.

Anglers, of whom there are at least 2 million in England, go down to their treasured waterways whenever they can to tend them, trimming vegetation, creating wetland spawning habitats, and even painstakingly cleaning the gravel. It sounds like a pretty peaceful pursuit, but among some Angling Trust members at their clubs around Reading, there is palpable anger in the air.

This is because water companies have been spewing waste into many of these stretches, destroying

the hard work, investment and hours of time anglers put in to keeping the rivers healthy.

Now, they are turning the tide, with fishers across the country testing their stretches of river for pollution using kits supplied by the Angling Trust. Often no one else will do it – reductions in testing by the Environment Agency mean many sites in England are not regularly tested, making it impossible to know the true state of sewage pollution.

150 volunteers have so far signed up to the sampling scheme in England, covering 50 rivers across 18 catchments, and more clubs are joining. So far, their results are pretty grim – half of all samples exceeded the upper limit for phosphate, and 60% for nitrate. These are levels that can promote damaging algal growth and harm fish health. Elevated phosphate and nitrate levels are telltale signs of a potential sewage spill.

"It's sad but necessary that anglers have to do this," says Martin Salter, the former Reading MP who is now head of policy at the Angling Trust, as he looks ruefully at the River Loddon. This chalk stream has been found by anglers to have higher than average levels of phosphate and nitrate.

"This is proof of the fact that operator self-monitoring has been a colossal failure, as evidenced by Southern Water falsifying its own results," says Salter. "We are determined to ensure that kind of behaviour is not tolerated. We are going to use this scheme to find the truth, which we will then draw to the attention of both the government and the public."

Richard Maude from the Twyford and District Fishing Club shows how he tests the Loddon chalk stream, throwing in a small bucket to collect a sample to scrutinise. The club's stretch of the river is next to a wild-looking



▲ Higher phosphate and nitrate readings point to sewage pollution

footpath; a secluded, tranquil oasis near a relatively urban area.

Maude has been fishing here for the last couple of years since he moved to the area, but has been an angler since childhood, like most of his fellow club members. "Some have been fishing this river for 50 years," he says. "Everyone's just in love with the Loddon."

"It's been fairly well documented for a while the pollution that has been pumped into the river, so we all want to do anything we can to help the situation, and if that means coming to collect a sample then we will do that."

Maude adds: "We've seen areas of the river that look different. You can see that it's kind of brown and horrible. It doesn't look right."

At the Swallowfield Fishing Club members rent their own field near their treasured waterway. They have access to both the Loddon and the Blackwater, and have put great effort into helping fish numbers. They've created a little wetland spawning area and keep the riverbank tended so it is rich in plants but not overgrown.

Russ Hatchett, a painter and decorator, does the testing here. "I've been fishing all my life," he says. "I've certainly noticed a slow decline of fish over the past few years. For the last seven years, we've been reporting the fish caught by anglers and there has been a noticeable decline."

The water here is fast-flowing, so you do not see the blue-green algal blooms that are a hallmark of sewage. But sometimes, Hatchett is shocked to see the usually clear waters marked with a telltale splotch of brown. For someone who spends hours and hours tending the river, this is hard to take.

"We notice a tea colour in the water, which isn't right. We are very concerned, which is why we joined with the Angling Trust and take samples, and hopefully hold someone to task about this."

There is real fury among anglers about the water companies, who can undo years of conservation work with just one spill.

"They shouldn't be doing what they are doing," Hatchett says, "It's not right. I think everybody would say that. Especially when we're paying them as members of the public for their services."

Kristian Kent, from the Angling Trust, has a warning for the water companies. "We are not going away," he says. "Citizen science is a reality of the world, so they're not going to be able to just sweep it under the carpet. If this was just one community group on the river, it's easy to ignore. But now, when it's 150, plus however many in the future, on most river catchments in England, it's hard to ignore it."

Beaches

Water supplier criticised for cutting back sewage alerts

Sandra Laville

A water company whose raw sewage overflows closed popular beaches this summer has changed its pollution alert map to stop issuing automatic red alerts after a discharge.

Southern Water attracted public criticism for releasing raw sewage via storm overflows after heavy rain along coastal Kent. Campaigners used social media to widely share the company's Beachbuoy map, which marks beaches at risk of pollution from raw sewage discharges with a red cross, often revealing that much of the coast has been affected.

After storms in August at least nine Kent beaches were issued with pollution alert warnings and the Environment Agency issued a "do not swim" warning for beaches across much of the north and south-east Kent coasts.

This month Southern Water announced changes to the Beachbuoy map, which suggest it will no longer automatically flag all raw sewage releases into bathing waters via storm overflows. Instead, Southern Water is analysing the overflows and deciding which ones are likely to cause water quality problems at beaches.

Explaining the change on its website, Southern said it had "upgraded" the map "to take into account the impact a release has on a local bathing water, based on the location of the outfall, the duration of the release and tidal conditions at the time."

"For instance, if the outfall is 5km out to sea, the release was short and the tidal conditions meant there could be no impact on a bathing water, we no longer turn the bathing water icon red."

Ed Acteson, of the campaign group SOS Whitstable, said he believed the changes were a way of turning a red map to blue to avoid bad PR.

"They are no longer indicating every release on to beaches on their map, which is what it was set up for," said Acteson. "They say they are taking into account the impact the release has on local bathing water but they don't have the information to make that decision. The map has been covered in red recently, it is bad PR for them. It has been shared across social media and caused an outcry. That is what they are trying to avoid."



▲ A protest against raw sewage release in East Sussex last month



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Family of man shot by Met to see police footage

Vikram Dodd
Police and crime correspondent

The family of Chris Kaba will be allowed to watch police video of the incident that led to his killing, the Guardian has learned, as the police watchdog insisted that evidence, not public pressure, led it to investigate an officer for homicide offences.

Kaba, 24, who was unarmed, was shot once by an officer from the Metropolitan police last Monday, with a single bullet striking him as he sat in the driver's seat of a car which had come under suspicion.

He died just over two hours later, having been shot in the head in Lambeth, south London.

The officer involved has been placed under investigation for murder or manslaughter by the Independent Office for Police Conduct, and suspended from duty by the Met.

The IOPC denied it buckled under pressure from Kaba's family or sections of the public and said a review of the evidence it had gathered led it to believe the officer should be investigated for the offences.

Initially the police watchdog - which has struggled to win public confidence - had treated the firearms officer as a witness.

The IOPC denied public pressure played any part. "Our decision to launch a criminal investigation was based solely on our review of the evidence which indicated a criminal



'Police feel the Met are pandering to public perception and have left the officer out to dry'

Anonymous source
On fears within the force

offence may have been committed," it said.

The firearms officer is yet to be interviewed under criminal caution by investigators, amid concern from some in policing that the public have still been given no explanation as to why he decided to open fire.

Kaba's family have been unhappy with the IOPC's conduct and have demanded to see video of the incident.

Officers were wearing body cameras and a helicopter fitted with a camera was following the car Kaba was in. The IOPC now says the family will be able to see the footage and a spokesperson said it had begun discussion with the Kaba family's lawyers about "how we can facilitate their viewing of video footage".

Kaba was in a dark Audi car last Monday evening whose registration plate triggered a police alert linking it to an earlier alleged firearms incident.

He was not the car's owner, and after a police pursuit, the vehicle was stopped using "tactical contact" where it was shunted or rammed.

After it came to a halt, police vehicles boxed it in and Kaba was shot and fatally injured.

Met firearms officers have a long-standing fear that their bosses will betray them when the going gets difficult. One police source said the Kaba case has reignited that concern.

"They feel like he has been thrown

▼ Helen Nkama, Chris Kaba's mother, is comforted at a march for justice over his death. PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL MATTSSON/REPORTDIGITAL.CO.UK

under a bus by the Met, who are pandering to public perception and have left the officer out to dry," they said.

Most sources do not expect a mass refusal by officers to carry weapons. Doing so would mean a return to regular frontline policing, responding to emergency calls. The Met is struggling to get enough armed officers and to recruit and retain officers.

In a statement, the Met assistant commissioner, Amanda Pearson, said: "We don't underestimate the significant impact on the suspended officer and colleagues and that is why senior colleagues are working closely with them to ensure they are fully supported.

"Firearms officers know that on the rare occasions when they discharge their weapons, they will face intense scrutiny."

Hundreds marched on parliament on Saturday demanding justice for Kaba, who was a drill rapper from south London.

Tattoos with no pain or blood - thanks to microneedles

Hannah Devlin
Science correspondent

Painless, bloodless tattoos have been created by scientists, who say the technique could have medical and cosmetic applications.

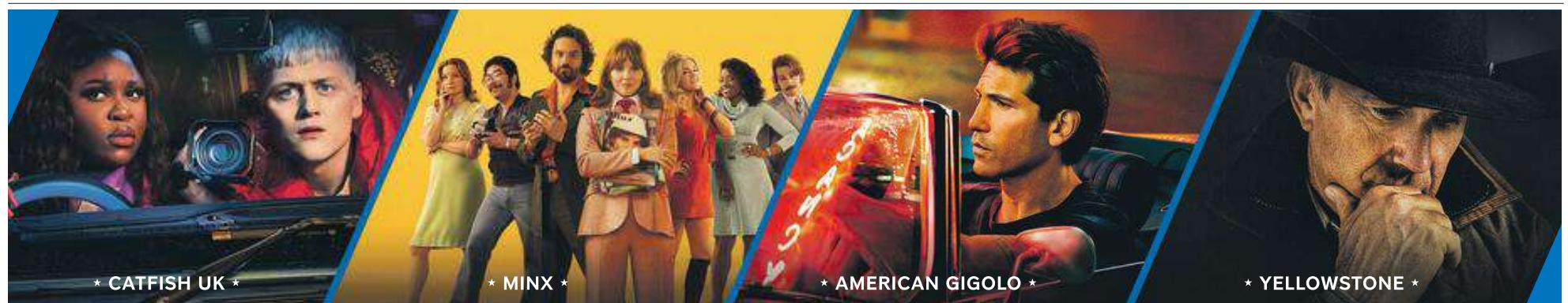
The technique, which can be self-administered, uses microneedles to imprint a design into the skin without pain or bleeding. Initial applications are likely to be medical - but it could be used in tattoo parlours to provide a more comfortable option.

"This could be a way not only to make medical tattoos more accessible, but also to create new opportunities for cosmetic tattoos because of the ease of administration," said Prof Mark Prausnitz, who led the work at Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta. "While some people are willing to accept the pain and time required for a tattoo, we thought others might prefer a tattoo that is simply pressed onto the skin and does not hurt."

Prausnitz's lab has been researching the use of microneedles for vaccine delivery and realised the work could be applied to tattoos.

Tattoos typically use large needles to puncture the skin up to 3,000 times a minute to deposit ink, a time-consuming and painful process. The Georgia Tech team developed microneedles made of tattoo ink encased in a dissolvable matrix. Each one acts like a pixel to create a tattoo image in any shape or pattern, and a variety of colours can be used.

"The goal isn't to replace all tattoos, which are often works of beauty created by tattoo artists," Prausnitz said. "Our goal is to create new opportunities for patients, pets, and people who want a painless tattoo that can be easily administered."



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Treasury firing will have 'chilling effect', says ex-civil service head

Rowena Mason
Deputy political editor

Kwasi Kwarteng's sacking of his most senior Treasury official will have a "chilling effect" on civil servants and marks a problematic shift towards ministers wanting advice that aligns

with their own views, a former head of the civil service has warned.

Lord Kerslake, now a crossbench peer, said the move by the new chancellor to remove Tom Scholar as permanent secretary as his first act in office was "pretty disgraceful".

Kerslake said the government appears to be shifting towards a

"new way of behaving", which could stop senior officials being willing to be challenging. He said new cabinet ministers would typically seek to work with permanent secretaries.

"What seems to have happened here is that they had a view about what they perceived was his approach to the policy side of things, and they decided they didn't want to have that sort of robust advice on the issues," Kerslake said.

"That is precisely what senior civil servants are there for. It marks a new level of the growing trend of

blaming the civil servants and dismissing them, and essentially saying they want a senior civil servant who aligns with our personal views.

"I think that is really problematic ... I think there will be a chilling effect and the wider world will be less confident that decisions will be made on the basis of robust advice."

Kerslake joins a growing chorus of concern about the removal of Scholar, a highly experienced and well-regarded civil servant, after Truss - who is believed to have ordered the sacking - hit out at "Treasury

thinking". The move was designed to send a signal that Kwarteng wants a new direction that focuses on promoting growth above all else.

Simon McDonald, a former permanent secretary at the Foreign Office, said yesterday that cabinet ministers sacking their top official on their first day in office is "unwise and unconstitutional". "The retired complain, but so what? Parliament needs to act," he added.

No 10 is not commenting on the controversy during the period of national mourning.

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Take a sausage, add mozzarella and wrap it in batter
The amazing rise of the Korean K-dog G2, page 4 →



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Review

A glimpse of Holy Island's glories

The Lindisfarne Gospels
Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle

★★★★★

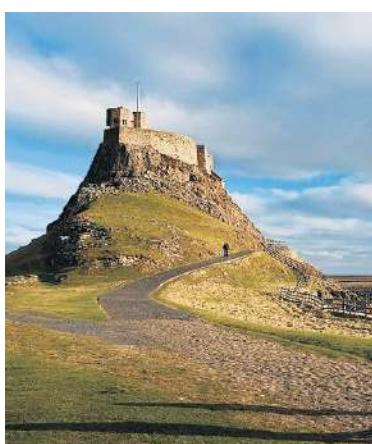
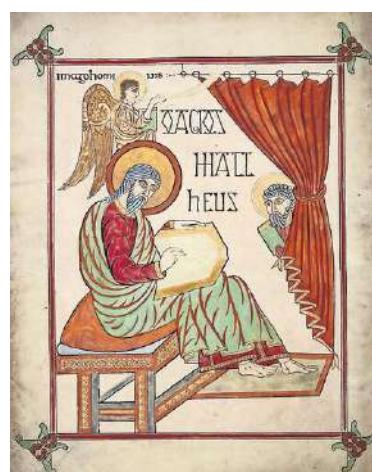
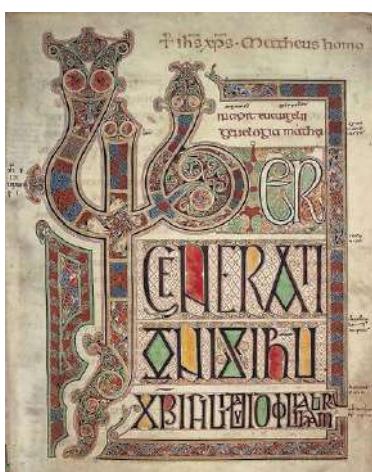
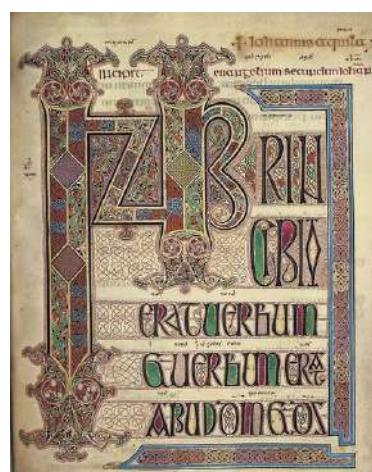
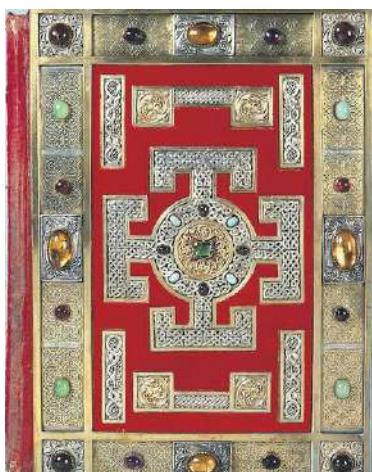
Jonathan Jones

Meet Eadfrith, Britain's first great artist. According to a 10th-century inscription, this monk and bishop of Lindisfarne on Northumberland's Holy Island wrote out and illuminated the entire Gospels singlehanded to create the exquisite book at the heart of this exhibition. He worked for 10 years around AD700, "for God and St Cuthbert [Lindisfarne's founder] and generally for all the holy folk who are on the island".

What an artist Eadfrith was. Being a book, its vellum pages still bound together, the Lindisfarne Gospels can only be displayed one double-page spread at a time.

They've selected a banger. To the left is a "carpet" page - so named because it resembles an eastern rug - with its abstract coils and knots, a many-layered pattern in delicate yet acid-sharp green, pink and gold.

To the right is the opening of the



▲ Lindisfarne Castle on Holy Island. The bishop Eadfrith illuminated the Gospels on the island 1,300 years ago

Gospel of St John: "In the beginning was the Word". But Eadfrith is so entranced by pattern he makes the Word appear a glorious object, a treasure. The letter N is even turned on its side like a Z to fit the design.

The survival of this book is a true miracle. In 793, Viking raiders sacked Lindisfarne, yet its Gospels were spared looting. Archaeological discoveries are often hyped as the "British Pompeii" yet this pristine monastic time capsule may actually deserve such comparisons.

It is rightly cherished by north-east England, and every seven years or so the British Library loans one of its greatest treasures to what was, in Eadfrith's day, the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Northumbria.

Last time it was exhibited at

Durham Cathedral. Now it comes to central Newcastle, heralded by art commissions that supposedly show its relevance to the 21st-century world, and Tyneside in particular. But the gulf of time between Eadfrith and us turns out to be too vast for this to work.

An illuminated manuscript made 1,300 years ago doesn't speak our language, and not just because it's in Latin. It belongs to another world. Getting something out of it has to mean imaginatively entering another world. Instead of dragging these mysterious pages into our time, it is we who must make the journey.

When the exhibition gets down to that, it comes to life. You are surrounded by coiling serpents,

◀ Far left, the jewelled cover of the Lindisfarne Gospels, with illuminated pages including from the gospels of John and Matthew

PHOTOGRAPHS: THE BRITISH LIBRARY BOARD

and latticed shapes from an utterly mysterious age. The meaty part of the show unleashes these delights as it provides visual context for the Lindisfarne Gospels.

It's a striking encounter with a cultural world on the cusp of Christianity, yet filled with dragons. One piece of a stone cross from Scotland has entwined patterns on one side and strange, disjointed figures on the other. Another fragmentary monument, erected in Croft-on-Tees in the ninth century, shows dogs and birds chewing their own bodies. Among these terrors and marvels, Christianity offered a clear message. The cross in early medieval art is not the bloodstained, sacrificial image of Christ's agony it would later become. It is a triumphant sign. These stone crosses once stood boldly in the landscape.

Unfortunately, although this exhibition has some beautiful art, it does not try to tell the story of Lindisfarne in much depth. The room of wonders is just that, a collection of lovely early-medieval treasures whose thread of argument soon loses itself in all those tangled designs. For instance, there's an early manuscript of Bede's Ecclesiastical History of the English People - but nothing to take us into the epic story of the coming of Christianity this Anglo-Saxon masterpiece tells.

It's apparent the Laing wants to keep its history light. But the British Museum has been proving for years that you don't have to oversimplify history to make it accessible. Here, you end up wanting more detail, more about the Anglo-Saxons, early Christian art, manuscripts ... so much more. It's interesting yet unsatisfying. Still, the primary school kids I shared my early view with were noisily engaged.

From Saturday to 3 December

Man jailed for possessing gun used to murder Lyra McKee

Rory Carroll
Ireland correspondent

A man has been jailed for seven years for possessing the gun used to murder the journalist Lyra McKee.

Niall Sheerin, 29, from Derry, admitted possessing the pistol between September 2018 and June 2020.

Mr Justice Fowler at Belfast crown court handed down an extended custodial sentence of seven years' imprisonment and a further five years on licence. He called Sheerin an associate of a "serious terrorist gang who posed a danger to the public".

The New IRA, a dissident republican group, admitted shooting McKee during rioting in the Creggan area of Derry in April 2019. The 29-year-old freelancer had been observing the disturbances from behind a police Land Rover.

The gun, a Hammerli X-Esse .22 pistol, was found wrapped in plastic bags and buried in a field in Derry in 2020. Ballistics tests linked it to the shooting of McKee and four other shootings in the city in the previous 21 months.

Yesterday Fowler said the prosecution had not established that Sheerin

was aware of the history of the gun, and that he was not sentencing him in connection with McKee's murder.

Outside court, the journalist's sister, Nichola McKee-Corner, urged the man who pulled the trigger to come forward and accept responsibility. "Now the story of the gun has come to an end, but the story of the gunman continues," she said.

She appealed to anyone with information about the gunman to come forward. She said: "Justice isn't something that stands alone with the police service - justice is the whole business of the community."

A reward for information about the murder has been doubled to £20,000.

Det Supt Eamonn Corrigan told reporters the investigation remained active. "It's over three years now since that tragic day, and the pain felt by Lyra's loved ones is understandably as raw as ever."

"I'm keen to reassure the community that we remain committed to working with them and our partner agencies to stop the corrosive influence of terrorists," he said.



▲ Lyra McKee, a journalist, was shot dead during rioting in Derry in 2019

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▼ Coliseum, London
The United Ukrainian Ballet's Giselle
 (Christine Shevchenko) and her
 lover, Albert (Oleksii Tiutiunnyk)
 PHOTOGRAPH: TRISTRAM KENTON/THE GUARDIAN



Review

Ukrainian company revitalises a classic

Giselle

Coliseum, London

★★★★★

David Jays

This production is little short of a miracle. The United Ukrainian Ballet - a crack company of dancers, some of whom have fled their homeland - ardently refresh a classic. Despite the wrenching context, it is immensely moving that everyone involved pours so much thought, heart and art into this revelatory project.

The Kyiv-raised choreographer Alexei Ratmansky is devoted to stripping decades of accretions from ballet classics.

He revisited Giselle for the Bolshoi in 2019 and his researches bring the Romantic tragedy closer to its Parisian premiere of 1841. The detail is fresh, the performances delicate and true.

The conductor Viktor Oliynyk sets an urgent tone - brisk tempi let the story's shadows arrive unawares. Christine Shevchenko, the American Ballet Theatre principal who led yesterday's cast, skips like a gazelle while Oleksii Tiutiunnyk's Albert is all arcs and scissor jumps. This willowy pair might hope to remain airborne for ever. Meanwhile, the gamekeeper (Sergei Kliachin), who adores Giselle, stomps about, keeping a suspicious eye on Albert. Is true love weighty or airy? Can you move through life without care?

Shevchenko makes Giselle unworldly but not daft; her Albert seems genuinely loving, but their worlds crumble when Albert's identity and courtly fiancee are revealed. Reality intrudes, and Shevchenko honours the awfulness of her death scene. The fiancee, Bathilde (Ksenia Novikova), often played with a sneer, is here kindly, distraught at Giselle's distress.

The redemptive second act unfolds by a graveside. Wilis - spirits of thwarted brides - form a cage around intruding men. To protect Albert, Giselle must keep him moving, in darting, yearning duets. Dance, once their joy, becomes a desperate play for time.

Although the ballet cannot speak directly to events in Ukraine, it honours terrible loss - and the courage in finding reasons to survive.

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"They were like gold'

Refugees given dignity of choice with clothes

Esther Addley

When she came to Britain as a refugee from Nigeria six years ago, Kemi had a three-month-old baby, a room in a shared house and £5.39 to survive on each day.

Finding money for clothes, even from a charity shop, was out of the question. "Children grow every month, especially at that small age. It was difficult for me [because] I had to keep us safe and warm," Kemi says.

The only thing to do was to get up early and walk the streets with her daughter, hoping to scavenge clothes dumped by a charity bin or on a pavement. "It felt so shameful sometimes when people were passing by, seeing me pick in the

bin to find clothes to wear. [But] I didn't care what people [thought], I had to keep my daughter safe."

After four years, Kemi was given refugee status and secured her first job interview - but had nothing to wear. Instead of having to scrounge for something appropriate, she was referred to a small social enterprise called Give Your Best, which asked her size and what kind of clothes she liked. "And they gave me three beautiful shirts. Those clothes were like gold to me ... They asked me what I actually wanted. That makes you feel valued."

The initiative was launched during the Covid lockdown by Sol Escobar, a Uruguayan living in Cambridge who had spent several years volunteering at refugee camps in northern France and felt "desperate" when Covid hit about how refugees would be affected.

A friend put her in contact with a household of refugee women



▲ Sol Escobar and Kemi. After volunteering with Give Your Best, Kemi is now its first staff member

PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN GODWIN/THE GUARDIAN

'It felt so shameful sometimes when people passed by, seeing me pick in the bin to find clothes'

Kemi
Refugee from Nigeria

items of clothing donated by 1,500 people, and has more than 800 refugee women approved to "shop" for free on its virtual storefront.

It is aiming for much more, however. The enterprise has just launched a new digital platform that will allow it to hugely upscale, becoming what Escobar calls "a Depop for donations".

Images of clothes are uploaded to Give Your Best, where customers select those they like and donors post the item. No money changes hands. As well as giving choice and cutting waste, Escobar says an unforeseen consequence has been small connections forged. Many donors include a note and a small gift - a reminder that "on the other side of your package, there's a woman who is your size and has your fashion sense, because she's shopping from your wardrobe".

The new platform means they can now offer children's clothes, with menswear to come; eventually they aim to open donations to others in need, and potentially share their tech overseas. Having volunteered with the organisation, Kemi is now its first staff member.

She has kept a file of the notes she has been sent with items of clothing. "They say 'hope you enjoy your item, know that somebody in the UK cares about you'. Imagine how that feels."

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World



► Residents of Izium cycle past an armoured vehicle believed to have been abandoned in the street by retreating Russian forces

PHOTOGRAPH: ALESSIO MAMO/THE GUARDIAN

'Forward towards victory': Zelenskiy makes surprise visit to liberated city

Lorenzo Tondo
Isobel Koshiw Izium
Luke Harding Kyiv

The Ukrainian president, Volodymyr Zelenskiy, made a surprise visit to the frontline of the war yesterday when he toured the north-eastern city of Izium, which Ukrainian forces recaptured last week as part of their stunning counteroffensive.

Zelenskiy said he was "very shocked" but not surprised by the scale of the damage to the city. He thanked the paratroopers who took part in Izium's liberation and watched as Ukraine's flag was raised in front of its gutted administration building.

"Our blue and yellow flag is already flying in deoccupied Izium," he said. "And it will be so in every Ukrainian city and village. We are moving in only one direction: forward towards victory."

Zelenskiy held a minute's silence for Ukrainian soldiers who died in

recent fighting. He said the scene of "destroyed buildings" and "killed people" was reminiscent of Bucha, a Kyiv suburb where the Russian army killed hundreds of civilians in February and March.

Tank carcasses with Russia's signature "Z" symbol dotted streets covered with craters. There were dozens of bombed apartment buildings in the debris-strewn city centre. The Russians turned the inside of a church into an improvised hospital and blew up bridges as they left.

Zelenskiy's secret trip underlined the dramatic success of Ukraine's September advance. His armed forces have reclaimed nearly 4,000 sq km (1,500 sq miles) of territory in the Kharkiv region, including 300 settlements, some of them directly on the border with Russia.

The Kremlin's most prestigious battalions fled in the wake of an overwhelming Ukrainian assault. Since taking Izium in April, Russia had transformed the city into a major

garrison and arms depot. At least 1,000 inhabitants were killed during this period, Ukrainian officials say.

There is now little prospect that Vladimir Putin will be able to fulfil his strategic military goal, announced in the spring, of "liberating" the entire Donbas region. Around half of Donetsk province remains in Ukrainian hands.

The Russians have retreated to the east bank of the Oskil River, about 10 miles from Izium. A pro-Russian separatist commander, quoted by the Moscow news agency Itar-Tass, claimed Ukrainian troops were now approaching the border of the so-called Luhansk People's Republic.

The Russian army currently occupies the entire Luhansk region. But with Moscow's forces demoralised, and with some units wiped out entirely, Ukraine seems likely to continue pushing its counteroffensive.

After six months of war, Moscow appears to be running out of heavy weapons and technology. In its latest

intelligence briefing the Ministry of Defence said Iranian "kamikaze" drones bought by Moscow had been used for the first time in the battle for Kupiansk, a railway and supply hub north of Izium.

The Ukrainians shot down a Shahed-136 drone, it said. "Russia is almost certainly increasingly sourcing weaponry from other heavily sanctioned states like Iran and North Korea as its own stocks dwindle," the ministry suggested. The German newspaper Bild confirmed the report, citing experts in Berlin.

Yesterday's visit to Izium was not Zelenskiy's first trip to the warzone. He previously visited the cities of Lysychansk and Soledar, handing out medals to soldiers, when fierce fighting took place in May and June. Russia eventually seized Lysychansk and nearby Sievierodonetsk as part of its slow and grinding offensive.

The president's aides contrasted Zelenskiy's down-to-earth attitude with Putin's alleged cowardice and

aloofness. Russia's president has not visited captured Ukrainian territory since launching his invasion in February.

"This is bravery and camaraderie," Anton Gerashchenko, a former adviser to Ukraine's interior ministry, wrote of Zelenskiy. "This is support and motivation for our defenders who see their supreme commander-in-chief is with them. That's very different from sitting in a bunker."

Mykhailo Podolyak, Zelenskiy's senior aide, called on western nations to step up their supply of arms to Kyiv during what appears to be a pivotal moment in the war. They were needed to expel the Russians and to end the fighting speedily, he wrote on Twitter, adding: "Time for the final strike against the Evil Empire."

Podolyak said Ukraine wanted more multiple launcher rocket systems to destroy Russian logistics centres, as well as tanks, armoured personnel carriers and air defences to protect critical infrastructure. More drones were also needed to better target enemy objects, he said.

Ukraine was continuing to make progress in its ongoing attempt to recapture the southern city of Kherson. Natalia Humeniuk, spokeswoman for Kyiv's southern command, said three Russian ammunition dumps had been destroyed over the past 24 hours.

'Everyone is falling ill'
Plight of new mothers in Pakistan floods
Page 34

Renato Casaro
'The Michelangelo of movie posters'
Page 35



Russian retreat Rubble of recaptured Izium starts to give up its grisly secrets

Continued from page 1

"After the counter-offensive, we have found a few burial sites of local residents [across the Kharkiv region] that were murdered by the Russian military," says Oleksandr Filchakov, Kharkiv region's chief prosecutor. "Some of them even tortured. As for Izium, well, we have just started."

According to testimony from residents and some police officers, at least 50 people died when Russia dropped heavy bombs on a residential building near the main bridge. The block of flats split in two, with chunks taken off the edge, by what looks similar to the bombs used when Russians tried to capture Borodianka in Kyiv region - a Fab-250 Soviet-era bomb used to hit military targets such as fortifications and bunkers.

There were no such structures, however, in this quiet town, which before the war had a population of 46,000. Today, a few thousand of them remain. Locals say the only way out was to Russia and many refused to go.

On 1 April, Izium fell to Russian forces and Moscow turned it into the main launching point for its assault against the remaining Ukrainian troops in Ukrainian-controlled Donbas. Local authorities managed to evacuate part of the population but officials said approximately 10,000 citizens remained trapped.

"After the Russians came in, the shelling was still constant, they put their tanks around the centre and there was incoming fire," says Vitaliy Ivanovych, a 64-year-old former radio electronics engineer, who looks worn out and is dressed in dusty brown clothes. "They wouldn't let you leave, only if you wanted to go to Russia."

Ivanovych says that mobile phone signals and electricity were cut during the bombing in early March. He says electricity was restored a month ago, but not in all districts of the city, meaning some people lived without power for the entire period.

As most people in the city rely on electric pumps for their water supply, the lack of electricity also meant no water. Residents were rarely able to wash themselves or their clothes.

The residents spoken to by the Guardian are overwhelmingly happy that the Ukrainian army has retaken the city from the Russians and express hate towards the occupying forces. They are visibly traumatised by the shelling and destruction.

They say the Russian soldiers mostly kept to themselves and they have no direct knowledge of the Russians beating or torturing civilians, as has been reported in nearby Balakliia.

However, these residents confirm that when the Russians



▲ A cyclist passes a war-damaged building near the centre of Izium

◀ A family cooks outdoors at the entrance to their home in the city. Much of the area is without power

PHOTOGRAPHS: ALESSIO MAMO/THE GUARDIAN

arrived in their city they already had lists of those locals who were in the military, the families of military people, or the people who were veterans of the Donbas war, which began in 2014. "They knew what exactly where to look, what address," says a woman.

According to their testimonies, the Russians allegedly kidnapped these men and took them to unknown locations. Their fate, to date, remains a mystery.

"They disappeared," says Eduard, 30. "A friend of mine rebelled against the Russian soldiers who had stolen his car. They killed him in cold blood, along with his dog."

Svitlana, a woman in her 40s who is cooking food on a stove outside her house, says she and her neighbours have had no gas since February. Svitlana says she could not say she was happy to see the Ukrainian army. "We don't know who was shooting at us," says Svitlana, who adds that she has not had access to the internet and news since the war started. "We'll be happy once we have electricity and water. What's going to happen in the winter? None of us have windows ... we're also scared that the bombing will restart."

Residents are attempting to return to normal life, in the hope that the battle that forced them into hiding for months, killed their friends and destroyed their homes is really over, as explosions coming from the south-eastern Russian frontline, just five miles away, echo in the streets.

Today, the Russians have retreated to the east bank of the Oskil River, about 10 miles from Izium, whose recapture by Kyiv marked one of the most strategic breakthroughs for Ukraine since the beginning of the war.

Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelenskiy, made a surprise visit to Izium yesterday, and said he was "very shocked" but not surprised by the scale of the damage. He thanked the paratroopers who took part in Izium's liberation and watched as the Ukrainian flag was raised in front of its gutted administration building.

A few days before the Ukrainians arrived, a shop worker called Natasha says, the Russians ordered a 10-day lockdown. Then on Saturday at 2am they heard lorries leaving. "They wouldn't let us go anywhere. They switched off the electricity. There was no water," says Natasha. "The next day [Saturday morning], I looked out and I could see they were no longer standing at our checkpoint. We went out, they weren't there," she adds. "Later our guys arrived."

Additional reporting
Artem Mazhulin

Analysis
Shaun Walker



Putin's near neighbours may think that now is the time to put Moscow to the test

The rout of the Russian army in Ukraine's Kharkiv region looks set to be a turning point in Kyiv's battle to remove Putin's troops from the country, but it could also cause much broader fallout for Moscow in the wider region, as other former Soviet countries witness what appears to be the limits of Moscow's capabilities. "The power of the Russian flag has declined considerably, and the security system across the former Soviet space does seem to be broken," commented Laurence Broers, associate fellow at Chatham House.

This week fighting on the border between Azerbaijan and Armenia killed about 100 troops, after Azerbaijan shelled towns in Armenia. Each side accused the other of "provocations". Analysts said Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, had decided to test the waters while Moscow was struggling in Ukraine. Traditionally, Russia has supported Armenia in its territorial dispute with Azerbaijan over the 30 years since the fall of communism.

"Azerbaijan feels quite confident in this geopolitical moment, and particularly right now during the Ukrainian counteroffensive," said Tom de Waal, senior fellow at Carnegie Europe. "This seems absolutely aimed at Russia as much as it is at Armenia, testing Russia's commitment to defend Armenia." On Tuesday

Russia said that it had brokered a ceasefire between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Armenia has appealed to the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO) for military backup. The CSTO is a Russia-dominated mutual defence pact. However Moscow is reluctant to intervene directly.

"Russia is clearly equivocating, both because it's massively overstretched in Ukraine and because it doesn't want to pick a fight with Azerbaijan at this point," said de Waal.

Separately, clashes broke out on the border between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan yesterday, killing one Tajikistani border guard and wounding five others, according to local reports. While that specific incident was not directly related to the war in Ukraine, and Russia has traditionally had good relations with both of those countries, analysts said the Russian invasion had altered the balance of power in a region that has been a battleground for Russian, Chinese and western influence - and it had put Russia on the back foot.

Putin had seemed to have more influence than ever in the former Soviet region, but much of that has unravelled during his "special military operation" in Ukraine. Broers said: "We are seeing the collapse of Russia's reputation as a security patron, which is happening at the material level with the massive force concentration on Ukraine, but also on the subjective level of the reputation of Russian security guarantees."

Temur Umarov, a fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said: "Many central Asian countries see that Russia needs them more than ever before, and they're now trying to squeeze as much as they can."



◀ Olena Zelenska with Roberta Metsola, the European parliament's president, and Ursula von der Leyen
PHOTOGRAPH: JEAN-FRANCOIS BADIUS/AP

also be capped, with the funds redistributed to people in need.

The commission has retreated on the idea of a price cap on gas. EU member states were split over which countries the cap should cover, while some were flatly opposed to the idea, fearing a threat to security of supplies.

Von der Leyen suggested she had not abandoned a price cap in some form, promising to develop "a set of measures that take into account the specific nature of our relationship with suppliers, ranging from unreliable suppliers such as Russia to reliable friends such as Norway".

And in a victory for countries such as Spain and France which have long complained about EU electricity market rules, she promised "deep and comprehensive reform" that would help consumers benefit from cheaper renewables.

The wide-ranging speech also touched on the climate crisis, with Von der Leyen arguing the record-breaking hot and dry summer of 2022 should galvanise efforts for adaptation. She promised to double the EU's fleet of aircraft and helicopters for fighting forest fires.

She also opened the door to a revision of the EU's founding treaties and promised tighter rules against corruption inside member states.

Von der Leyen called for a rethink of policies, from energy to the treatment of refugees. In a reference to the EU's long-stalled talks on the common management of asylum seekers, she said: "Our actions towards Ukrainian refugees must not be an exception. They can be a blueprint for going forward."

She also acknowledged the long-voiced complaints of Poland and the Baltic states that their warnings about the Russian president had gone unheeded in western Europe. "We should have listened to the voices inside our union ... They have been telling us for years that Putin would not stop," she said.

Unlike similar speeches in recent years, there was no direct mention of the UK, although Von der Leyen, an anglophile who studied at the London School of Economics, paid tribute to Queen Elizabeth II.

"She is a legend," Von der Leyen said. "She was a constant throughout the turbulent and transforming events in the last 70 years."

'Putin will fail and Europe will prevail': Von der Leyen rallies support for Kyiv

Jennifer Rankin

Brussels

The European Commission president, Ursula von der Leyen, has insisted "Putin will fail and Europe will prevail", as she vowed to press on with Ukraine's EU integration.

Addressing the European parliament in Strasbourg, Von der Leyen issued a rallying call intended to unite member states grappling with an energy crisis as winter draws near. She described the Russian invasion as not only a war on Ukraine, but "a war on our economy, a war on our values and a war on our future".

Dressed in the blue and yellow colours of Ukraine's national flag, the

commission president announced she would visit Kyiv later in the day and planned detailed discussions with its president, Volodymyr Zelenskiy, on ensuring Ukraine's "seamless access to the single market".

Ukraine's first lady, Olena Zelenska, was among the audience in Strasbourg and was given a standing ovation by MEPs.

Von der Leyen promised to work with Zelenska on the reconstruction of Ukrainian schools and pledged €100m (£87m) in EU funds. An estimated 70 schools have been damaged or totally destroyed by Russia.

The European Commission president, who has already visited Kyiv twice since the outbreak of war, also said the EU would stay the course

with its sanctions on Russia. "The sanctions are here to stay," she said. "This is the time for us to show resolve, not appeasement."

Von der Leyen said that the EU's economic restrictions on the Russian economy were working. "The Russian military is taking chips from dishwashers and refrigerators to fix their military hardware, because they ran out of semiconductors," she claimed.

As expected, she confirmed the commission was pushing ahead with windfall taxes on energy companies' excess profits. EU officials hope to raise €140bn, which will be channelled to vulnerable households and businesses struggling with a tenfold increase in pre-pandemic gas prices.

"Major oil, gas and coal companies are also making huge profits," Von der Leyen said. "So they have to pay fair share - they have to give a crisis contribution."

She confirmed that the profits of generators of low-carbon electricity, renewable and nuclear firms would

[This is] a war on our economy, a war on our values and a war on our future'

Ursula von der Leyen
European Commission

EU to impose emergency windfall tax of £120bn on profits of energy companies

Jennifer Rankin Brussels
Alex Lawson

The EU executive plans to raise about €140bn (£120bn) by imposing windfall taxes on energy companies' "abnormally high profits" and directing proceeds to households and businesses struggling with bills.

Announcing long-awaited emergency measures to tackle the soaring price of electricity, the EU official in charge of the green transition, Frans Timmermans, said the plans were a necessary response to energy supply shortages and high prices.

"The era of cheap fossil fuels is over. And the faster we move to

cheap, clean and homegrown renewables, the sooner we will be immune to Russia's energy blackmail," he said.

Fossil fuel extractors will be asked by the EU to give back 33% of taxable surplus profits for the 2022 fiscal year, in a move that could pile pressure on Liz Truss to reverse her decision not to extend the UK's windfall tax on oil and gas companies, which is set at 25%. Truss has ruled out extending the £5bn windfall tax on energy companies introduced by the former chancellor Rishi Sunak.

In a further sign of the UK's post-Brexit divergence, the new prime minister has also stopped short of asking consumers and businesses to reduce energy use over the winter. In

contrast, the commission wants EU member states to sign up to a legally binding target to cut electricity use by 10% overall and by 5% during peak hours, via efficiency campaigns and incentives.

The plan mirrors an already agreed voluntary target of cutting gas consumption by 15% until the end of spring 2023. "Demand reduction helps rebalance the energy market, lower energy bills, reduce

33%
Proportion of taxable surplus profits fossil fuel companies will be asked to return in 'solidarity'

emissions and makes us immune to Russia's gas games. Without demand reduction, it is not going to work," Timmermans said.

Announcing further details of its long-trailed energy plan, the commission wants oil and gas companies to pay a 33% "solidarity contribution" on their profits, although EU member states would be free to set higher levies.

Low-carbon electricity generators, such as wind, solar and nuclear firms, would have their revenues capped at €180 per kilowatt hour, which is less than half current market prices. These firms have enjoyed a profits bonanza, as their revenues are linked to the price of expensive oil and gas.

Trump says Pence would not be his running mate in 2024 race

Martin Pengelly

New York

Donald Trump will not pick Mike Pence as his running mate if he contests the presidency again, according to an interview with the authors of a book on his time in the White House.

"It would be totally inappropriate," Trump told Peter Baker and Susan Glasser. "Mike committed political suicide" by refusing to reject electoral college votes in Trump's 2020 defeat by Joe Biden, Trump said.

Baker, of the New York Times, and Glasser, of the New Yorker, are behind *The Divider: Trump in the White House, 2017-2021*, which will be published on Tuesday. The Guardian obtained a copy. The authors, who are married, interviewed Trump twice for their book, in April and November last year.

As vice-president, Pence filled a purely ceremonial role regarding the certification of electoral results.

Alleging electoral fraud without evidence, Trump and advisers including the law professor John Eastman demanded that Pence reject results from key states.

After consulting advisers of his own, including the conservative judge J Michael Luttig and the former vice-president Dan Quayle, Pence refused to cooperate.

The Capitol was then stormed by a mob Trump knew to be armed yet told to "fight like hell" to stop certification. As his supporters attacked, Trump tweeted that Pence "didn't have the courage to do what should have been done to protect our country and our constitution".

Some rioters chanted: "Hang Mike Pence". A gallows was erected outside. As described by the House

January 6 committee, Pence and his Secret Service detail narrowly escaped the attackers. A former Trump aide testified to the committee that the then White House chief of staff, Mark Meadows, had told another aide that Trump "thinks Mike deserves it. He doesn't think [the rioters are] doing anything wrong".

Whether Pence did commit "political suicide" remains an open question. Pence has maintained his position on the certification process. In Florida in February, he told the conservative Federalist Society: "President Trump is wrong. I had no right to overturn the election."

But in a Republican party dominated by Trump, any presidential hopeful must balance fealty with moves towards a run of their own.

In polling on Republican nominees in 2024, Trump enjoys clear leads over challengers led by Ron DeSantis,

the Trumpist Florida governor. Pence is generally back in the pack, scoring in single digits along with names Trump might yet consider for a new running mate, including the South Dakota governor, Kristi Noem, and the former UN ambassador Nikki Haley.

Like Noem and Haley, Tim Scott of South Carolina, the only black Republican in the Senate, has presidential ambitions of his own. But Scott has also refused to dismiss the notion of joining Trump's ticket.

On Monday, the cover of Pence's own White House memoir was revealed. In back-cover text, Pence says he was "angry at what I saw" on 6 January 2021, "how it desecrated the seat of our democracy and dishonored the patriotism of millions of our supporters, who would never do such a thing here or anywhere else".

As reported by Axios, however, "much of the book is about Pence's faith journey" and his "behind-the-scenes policy pushes". In their book, Baker and Glasser also describe Pence's extreme loyalty to Trump before the Capitol riot, a stance he did not abandon even as Trump frequently discussed replacing him on the ticket in 2020.

Ex-president feared Iran assassination bid over strike on general

Martin Pengelly

Donald Trump told friends in December 2020 that he was afraid Iran would try to assassinate him in revenge for the death of Qassem Suleimani, an Iranian general killed in a US drone strike nearly a year before.

The startling news is reported by Peter Baker and Susan Glasser, in *The Divider: Trump in the White House, 2017-2021*, to be published in the US next week.

The book charts the former US president's Iran policy, from reluctant talks over the nuclear deal signed under Barack Obama to the US withdrawal in May 2018 and the point in June 2019 when Trump agreed to airstrikes but called them off at the last minute.

Trump said then: "I thought about it for a second and I said: 'You know what, they shot down an unmanned drone ... and here we are sitting with 150 dead people that would have taken place probably within a half an hour after I said go ahead? And I didn't like it ... I didn't think it was proportionate."

It later emerged that the Fox News host Tucker Carlson was among those who had advised Trump against ordering the Iran strikes. Six months later, Trump did authorise the strike on Suleimani.

The commander of the elite Quds force of the Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, which the US designated a terrorist group in April 2019, was killed on 3 January 2020 as he left Baghdad airport.

On 16 December 2020, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the supreme leader of Iran, tweeted: "Those who ordered the murder of General Suleimani as well as those who carried this out should be punished. This revenge will certainly happen at the right time."

Baker and Glasser report that Trump and his advisers considered new strikes but backed off because the end of Trump's time in power was too near.

They also write: "At a cocktail party, Trump told several of his Florida friends he was afraid Iran would try to assassinate him, so he had to go back to Washington where he would be safer."



◀ Nancy Davis, front left, and her lawyer, Ben Crump, speaking outside the Louisiana state capitol in Baton Rouge last month. Crump said she had suffered 'unspeakable pain' because of the vagueness of the law

PHOTOGRAPH: STEPHEN SMITH/AP

Louisiana woman with unviable foetus made to travel for abortion

Ramon Antonio Vargas

New York

A pregnant Louisiana woman who was carrying a skull-less foetus that would have died a short time after birth eventually travelled about 1,400 miles to New York for a termination, after her local hospital denied her an abortion amid uncertainty over the procedure's legality.

Nancy Davis, 36, told the Guardian that she had had her pregnancy

terminated on 1 September after travelling from her home town of Baton Rouge to a clinic in Manhattan.

Davis's journey was necessary because Louisiana has outlawed abortion with few exceptions after the US supreme court's decision in June to eliminate the federal abortion rights which were established by its 1973 ruling in *Roe v Wade*.

Davis was about 10 weeks pregnant in late July when an ultrasound at Baton Rouge Woman's hospital showed that her foetus was missing

the top of its skull, a rare and fatal condition known as acrania that kills babies within days of birth.

Louisiana's abortion ban contains a general exception for foetuses that cannot survive outside their mothers' wombs, and the law's author - state senator Katrina Jackson - has insisted that Davis could have legally obtained an abortion without having to go across the country.

But Louisiana's list of conditions justifying an exception from the ban did not explicitly include acrania. So officials at the hospital where Davis had her ultrasound refused to provide an abortion for her, apparently fearing that they could be exposed to prison sentences, fines and forfeiture of their licences if they did.

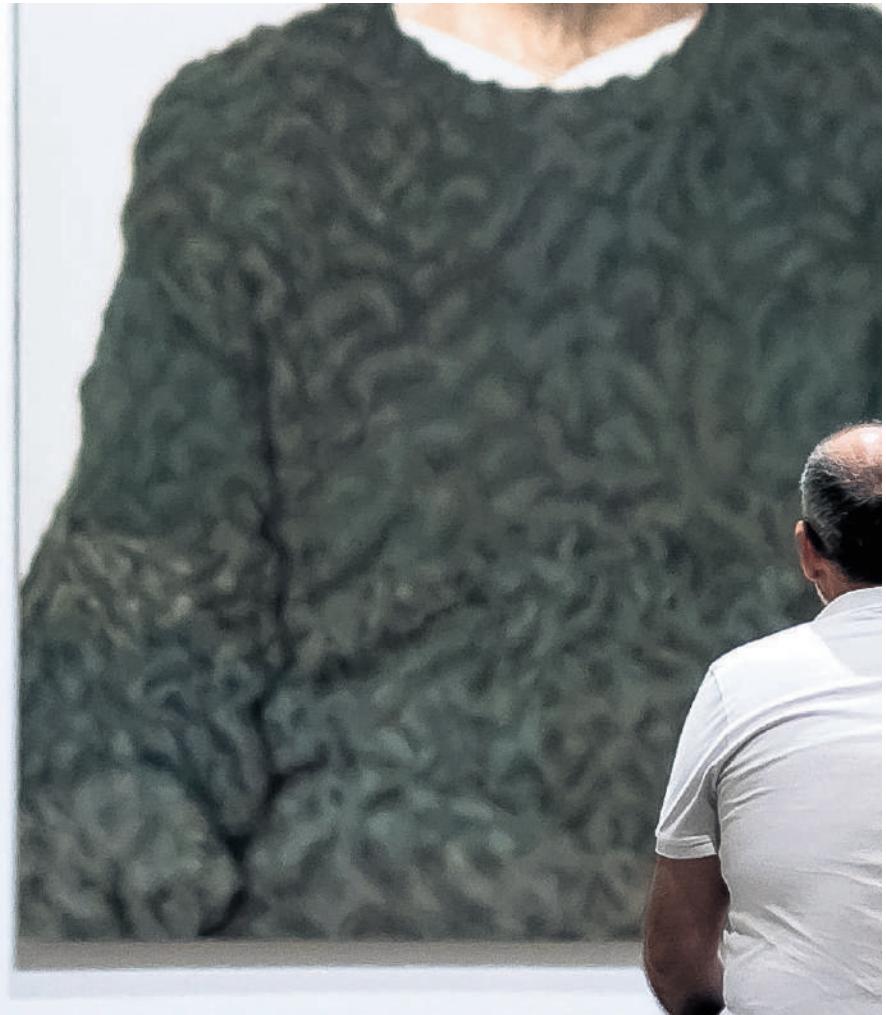
After Davis spoke out, more than 1,000 people donated nearly \$40,000 to a campaign for her to travel to a state where she could legally get an abortion. She had planned to go to North Carolina, but, she said, she ended up going to a Planned Parenthood facility in Manhattan.

Davis appeared outside Louisiana's capitol building in late August alongside the civil rights lawyer Ben Crump and called on the state's legislators to at least clarify the wording of the ban - if not repeal it entirely - so that no one else would have to endure what she had had to.

Crump said Davis had suffered "unspeakable pain, emotional damage and physical risk" because of the poorly worded law.



▲ Mourners at the funeral of the Iranian general Qassem Suleimani



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The Guardian | The Observer

European court condemns France for not repatriating women held in Syria

Angelique Chrisafis

Paris

The European court of human rights has condemned France over its refusal to repatriate two French women who went to Syria with their partners to join Islamic State and are being held with their children at Kurdish-run prison camps.

The ruling will be studied closely by other countries, including the UK, which still have citizens detained in camps in north-east Syria.

The Strasbourg-based court, which is not an EU body, ruled that Paris had to swiftly re-examine requests made by the parents of the two women, which asked that they be allowed to return to France with the children

they gave birth to in Syria. The judges found that France's refusal to repatriate the women and children was in violation of the right of a person to "enter the territory of the state of which they are a national".

The ruling did not grant a general right to repatriation, but said there should be safeguards against any potentially "arbitrary" decision-making. It said an independent body should be able to examine decisions made about individuals.

France had not provided sufficient reviews to ensure that its refusal to repatriate was not arbitrary. France now has to re-examine the cases of the women and their children and provide guarantees on its decision-making process.

The families of the two French

women had argued that their prolonged detention in Syria exposed them and their children to inhumane and degrading treatment, and violated their right to respect for family life.

The two women left France for Syria in 2014 and 2015 when they were in their 20s. Now in their 30s, one has two children aged eight and six, and the other has a child aged three. They lived in IS territory, where they were captured in 2019, and are believed to have been held with their children in detention in Syria ever since, in camps including those at al-Hawl and al-Roj.

The parents who lodged a case for them to be returned to France said that malnutrition and disease were rife in the camps. Human rights

watchdogs have warned that in the camps people face hunger, poor sanitation, inadequate shelter and violence and exploitation threats.

France initially had a case-by-case policy of bringing children back to France without their mothers. But in recent months Paris has changed its approach, in July moving to repatriate 16 women and 35 children, some orphans, in chartered planes. Upon arrival in France eight women were taken into custody for questioning and the other eight were detained on arrest warrants. The children were placed in the care of social services.

In reaction to the Strasbourg ruling yesterday, the government spokesperson Olivier Véran cited the repatriations this summer, saying that France had "not waited for the

European court decision" to "move forward" and that each case would be examined "meticulously".

It is estimated that there are still about 100 French women and 250 children in Syrian prison camps.

It emerged this week that those repatriated in July included the widow of an attacker at the Bataclan concert venue, in Paris, in 2015, where 90 people were killed. The woman has been charged with associating with terrorists.

The UK has also faced pressure from MPs and human rights groups to repatriate women and children from Syrian camps. So far, the UK has repatriated some children from the camps, but no women.

An estimated 15 to 20 individuals and their families who originally came from Britain are among those detained in north-east Syria, including some whose citizenship has been removed.

Britain argues that the women pose a national security threat. Other European countries, such as Belgium and Germany, have recovered most of their citizens who left to join the jihadist fight in Syria.

Bereaved relatives ask ICC to investigate downing of Ukrainian jet by Iran

Julian Borger

Washington

When Ukraine International Airlines flight 752 was shot down over Tehran by Iranian anti-aircraft missiles in January 2020, killing all 176 people onboard, it was just the beginning of the ordeal for the victims' families.

In the 32 months since, they have faced obstruction and hostility from the Iranian authorities, which initially sought to deny their forces were responsible. When bodies were finally returned, they were often mixed with the remains of other victims, the personal effects of the dead were looted, and in some instances their funerals were commandeered by the Tehran regime for propaganda purposes. Grieving relatives have been assaulted, harassed and threatened.

Unlike MH17, the Malaysian airliner shot down by Russian missiles in July 2014, there has been no independent international investigation on what happened to flight 752, which was downed by two missiles six minutes after take-off from Imam Khomeini airport. It was carrying mostly Iranian and Iranian diaspora families back to their adopted nations after a visit to their homeland.



Debris from the airliner in Tehran's suburbs. Iran initially sought to deny its forces were responsible

PHOTOGRAPH: GETTY IMAGES

'This was a war crime so we expect them to open an investigation'

Hamed Esmaeilion
Families' spokesman

Their families feel forgotten by their governments, and are now seeking to hold accountable those responsible for the death of their loved ones.

Yesterday they submitted a request for the prosecutor at the international criminal court (ICC) to start an investigation of the downing

of PS752 as a potential war crime and crime against humanity.

It is an innovative approach, born of a lack of alternatives. Among the 176 victims (plus an unborn child) were 82 Iranians, 63 Canadians, 11 Ukrainians, 10 Swedes, four Afghans, and three Britons.

As the nation whose flag the airliner was flying, Ukraine initially took the lead, but progress was hindered first by Covid and then by the outbreak of war in February.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police declined to open its own criminal inquiry, or accept Kyiv's offer of a joint investigation, reportedly telling the families that the issue was too complex and the evidence beyond reach in Iran.

The families, however, have run out of patience. Hamed Esmaeilion, the president and spokesman of the Association of Families of Flight PS752 Victims, said: "It has

been so slow and bureaucratic that after two years, we said we have to try another path."

The families' legal strategy makes use of article 15 of the ICC's founding Rome statute, which allows "any individual, group, or organisation" to inform the prosecutor's office of suspected crimes.

Ukraine has already given the ICC jurisdiction to investigate war crimes and crimes against humanity on its territory after November 2013, and in legal terms the Ukrainian airliner counts as national territory.

The shooting down of the plane followed the US drone strike killing the Iranian general Qassem Suleimani on 3 January 2020, and a retaliatory Iranian missile strike against US bases in Iraq five days later. Therefore, the application to the ICC argues, an international armed conflict existed at the time and the downing of the plane was thus a war crime.

The families argue in their case that the plane was deliberately shot down despite indications of its civilian status, and that the Iranian government decided at a high level to keep the skies open, and not to issue any warning to airlines about the dangers.

The motivation, the brief argues, was to deter US attacks and therefore Tehran was using civilian passengers and crews as human shields.

Since becoming the voice of the association pushing for accountability, Esmaeilion has had repeated anonymous death threats.

For he and the other families the ultimate aim is for the ICC prosecutor, the British lawyer Karim Khan, to include the PS752 brief in his Ukraine war crimes investigation.

"I know he has a lot of cases on his table, and I understand it's a complicated case," Esmaeilion said. "But this was a war crime and this was a crime against humanity, so we expect them to open an investigation."

Pakistan Plight of pregnant women stranded by floods

Shah Meer Baloch
Quetta

Crying, vomiting and eight months pregnant, Naseeba Ameerullah walked in labour pains for an hour in search of an ambulance. The 23-year-old eventually found one, but had to beg the driver to take her to hospital. Pakistan's floods have left roads damaged and gridlocked, making the normal two-hour journey to the provincial capital of Quetta a punishing 12-hour drive.

Ameerullah left her flood-ravaged home in the Naseerabad district of Balochistan province in the morning and reached Quetta at night. "I didn't know what was happening around me," she said. "When I finally reached the hospital, the doctors said I would not survive if they didn't operate immediately." Complications with the labour meant doctors had to quickly deliver the baby.

"I gave birth to a baby boy two days ago but the doctors told us the baby requires to be incubated but there were no incubators available, so we had to take my baby to my mother's place. I haven't seen my baby yet," she said.

Ameerullah is one of the thousands of women who,



▼ Naseeba Ameerullah had a 12-hour drive to hospital. After a complicated labour there was no incubator in hospital for her baby



► Durnaz Soz Ali in Larkana with her newborn baby, Shamma

PHOTOGRAPHS: SHAH MEER BALOCH/ THE GUARDIAN

according to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), will bear the brunt of the floods in Pakistan and are desperately need maternal health services.

The Guardian interviewed more than a dozen women who were pregnant or had given birth in Balochistan and Sindh, where the flooding was worst. They accused the government of abandoning them without healthcare, food and drinking water.

A third of Pakistan has been flooded, with at least 1,400 dead and more than 33 million left struggling after monsoon floods washed away bridges, roads, livestock and people.

The UNFPA said 73,000 women expected to give birth this month would need skilled birth attendants, newborn care and support. It estimated that almost 650,000 women in flooded areas require maternal health services

to ensure a safe pregnancy and childbirth.

On a drive through districts in Sindh to Balochistan, people could be seen living in plastic tents or roadside camps because their homes have been swept away.

In addition, across Pakistan more than 1,460 health facilities have been damaged. Access to health facilities, healthcare workers and essential medicines and medical supplies is limited, according to the World Health Organization.

Rubina, who is eight months pregnant and living in a tent on a Jaffarabad roadside, said she had complications that included body aches and anaemia. She said medicines prescribed by doctors were not available and she could not afford to buy them privately. "My husband and brother did whatever was possible. They have lost their source of earnings and cannot provide us with anything else and the government hospital in Jaffarabad has nothing," she said.

Dr Sultan Ahmed Lehri, the superintendent of Bolan medical complex hospital in Quetta, said there had always been nutritional deficiencies in pregnant women in Balochistan, a situation that would get worse because of the floods.

"This can turn into a huge crisis. The government needs to work on this issue on a war footing and reach out to women and the broader population," said Lehri.

He added: "We are witnessing heavy mental toll and trauma of the floods on women as well. We need to treat that as well."

Haseena, another pregnant woman living in a tent close to Rubina, said she needed blood because she was anaemic and that there were many others like her. "We don't get any medicine here and food, so how can we expect to get blood transfusions? We drink water from the rivers where animals are dead," she said.

And while thousands of men and women live in tents on the roadside, there are no toilets.

"This a tragedy which we can't even talk about," Haseena said.

Dr Imran Baloch, a medical superintendent in Jaffarabad, said some women gave birth on the way to hospital because of damaged roads. "A woman delivered on the way as she was walking to the hospital and the infant was brought to the hospital via ambulance but the woman couldn't come because of the high level of water," he said. "Many women could not even come to the hospital and midwives had to be called. We are doing what we can."

Durnaz Soz Ali, 22, left her house in Qambar Shahdadkot in Sindh province after it was submerged. Ali, who is living in Larkana in a school, said: "I was nine months pregnant and ... I carried some of the belongings and walked for hours." Ali gave birth to a baby girl and named her Shamma, which means light. "We get food sometimes but not at other times. I am unable to feed my infant because I am weak."

Samina, who also took refuge in Larkana, said: "There can be no greater pain than having to leave your home. I am expecting a baby soon but in a state of homelessness."

Season 3

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Michelangelo of movie posters

Renato Casaro, painter of Rambo and Bond, picks his best film art

Sam Moore

As a young boy growing up in Treviso in the north-east of Italy, Renato Casaro would visit his local cinema every day in the hope of taking home posters of films whose runs had ended.

The young man wasn't just a film fan who wanted to collect the artwork from his favourite movies - he wanted to recreate them.

In his teens, the young artist struck a deal with theatre owners: free tickets in exchange for painting their walls with huge original posters, a move which led to him join Studio Favalli, the design centre of Rome's film industry, at just 18.

Now 86, Casaro, is one of the world's most influential poster designers. His style turns matinee idols into Michelangelos, from Stallone to Schwarzenegger, Costner to DiCaprio. His posters are unabashed theatrics, stuffed with sweaty biceps and heaving bosoms, which transport the punter outside the picturehouse to a thrilling third reel.

His earliest mentor was the flamboyant mogul Dino De Laurentiis, who first commissioned him to produce the poster for John Huston's colossal melodrama *The Bible* (1966). Other repeat collaborators included Huston, Sergio Leone, David Lynch and Bernardo Bertolucci, with whom he produced some of the most recognisable film art.

But by the end of the 20th century, the popularity of his style seemed to have waned, as computer-generated posters became the norm.

Then, three years ago, he was coaxed out of retirement by Quentin Tarantino. Casaro said: "When I got a call from the production manager on *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*, I was told Quentin wanted some posters in that same 1960s-style. It was a wonderful surprise, as I'd retired.

"Tarantino sent me a few photos of Leonardo DiCaprio to study his character and I had to paint him in various fake 60s spaghetti westerns. The bitter pill for me was that I didn't get to do the main poster."

Casaro's eye-catching style brought him commissions for a wider range of movie genres, and in 1980 he created the poster for *Flash Gordon*, featuring Ming the Merciless.

"I wanted Ming to be at the centre of the poster: for the image of the villain to contrast with that



◀ *Flash Gordon*, from 1980. I wanted Ming to be at the centre of the poster: for the image of the villain to contrast with that of the heroes. What a colourful character!

PHOTOGRAPH: RENATO CASARO



▼ Sylvester Stallone in 1985's *Rambo: First Blood Part II*. All I had to do was make him look like a hero. He was so excited

PHOTOGRAPH: RENATO CASARO

of the heroes. What a colourful character! Perfect for the poster."

Casaro sketched some of the defining actors in Hollywood history, from the all-action scenery for the poster for *Octopussy*, starring Roger Moore, in 1983, to Sylvester Stallone in 1985's *Rambo: First Blood Part II*.

Casaro said: "Stallone gave me the freedom to interpret all the images of Rambo I had as I wished. All I had to do was make him look like a hero. He was so excited when he saw the finished thing.

"He became a big fan of my work and sent me a dedication saying my work had entered his soul. Every actor has something special; the point is to capture their personality."



Renato Casaro began working in his teens

Under-35s in Japan reject marriage in record numbers

Justin McCurry

Tokyo

A record proportion of men and women in Japan say they do not intend to marry, a trend experts have said will undermine efforts to address the country's population crisis.

The National Institute of Population and Social Security Research - a government-affiliated body in Tokyo - said the results of its 2021 survey, published this month, would add to concerns about the low birth rate.

According to the survey, 17.3% of men and 14.6% of women aged between 18 and 34 said they had no intention of ever tying the knot - the highest figure since the questionnaire was first conducted in 1982.

In that survey, taken just before the rise of the bubble economy in the mid-1980s, just 2.3% of men and 4.1% of women said they would never marry.

The decline in marriages has had consequences for Japan's birth rate as the country faces the prospect of dramatic depopulation and a shrinking workforce and economy.

Experts have attributed the trend to factors including a growing desire among young working women to enjoy the freedoms that come with being single and having a career.

Men say they also enjoy being single, but voice concern over job security and their ability to provide for a family. Experts have called on the government to make it easier for women to return to work after having children and to address Japan's notoriously long working hours.

Asked what constituted an "ideal" lifestyle for women, almost 40% of surveyed single men and 34% of single women cited the ability to balance a career with raising children. In a sign of shifting attitudes towards gender roles, less than 7% of men said they would like their future spouse to stay at home to look after the family.

Shigeki Matsuda, a sociology professor at Chukyo University, said the trend would adversely affect the birth rate. "The Japanese government has been working to increase the birth rate by trying to help those who wish to get married or have children fulfil their aspirations," he told the Mainichi Shimbun newspaper.

"But if the number of people who don't want to marry continues to increase, the government will be forced to review its policies and it could lead to a further decline in fertility," he said.

The number of babies born in Japan in 2021 fell by 29,231, or 3.5%, from the previous year to a record low of 811,604, the health ministry said in June. The number of marriages fell by 24,391 to 501,116, the lowest figure since the end of the second world war.

Financial

Businesses could have to wait weeks for aid with energy bills, No 10 admits

Aubrey Allegretti
Joanna Partridge

Businesses may face a delay of several weeks in accessing the financial support promised to them by Liz Truss to help ease the burden of spiralling energy bills this winter, Downing Street has admitted.

Amid reports that the package for businesses would not be in place by 1 October, the prime minister's spokesperson said there could be a "delay of weeks" but insisted companies would receive backdated payments.

They said this was not due to the 10-day national mourning period after the Queen's death, but because businesses did not have a price-cap system, unlike households, meaning that a "brand new" scheme was having to be constructed.

The government has contacted energy firms and their representatives to urge them not to cut off the supplies of companies unable to pay their energy bills, if the support does take longer to arrive than hoped.

"We will confirm further details for the business support scheme next week," Truss's spokesperson told journalists yesterday, after reports emerged in the Financial Times about a delay. They added that they recognised there was "concern about the support" but promised it would arrive before November.

Pressed on whether the scheme would begin from 1 October, when the energy price cap for households will limit the typical annual bill to £2,500, the spokesperson said: "I don't have a set date for you right now. It may come in parallel with the household support scheme."

"If there is a delay ... we will backdate it to cover October energy bills so that businesses don't miss out."

Truss last week promised that a six-month scheme for businesses and public sector bodies such as schools and charities will offer "equivalent support" to that for households, with a review in three months about how it could be better targeted.

But companies across many sectors of the economy have warned for

weeks that they may not survive the winter as a result of soaring energy bills, with fixed-price tariffs coming to an end and quarterly rents looming for many at the end of the month.

Pubs and brewers are among those raising the alarm that any delay in the government's support package could force more businesses to close, leading to widespread job losses.

Emma McClarkin, the chief executive of the industry body, the British Beer and Pub Association, said these businesses "will not be able to wait days, let alone months to get clarity on their energy bill".

"Many are making decisions now as to whether they will have to close this winter," she said.

"We need urgent clarity on whether this cap will deliver for businesses and urge the chancellor to seriously consider what immediate reassurance he can give for the thousands of business owners currently in despair."

Although it is likely the business support will require legislation in order to be enacted, the spokesperson said the government was "still working through exactly" whether or not that would be necessary.

However, there has been no further clarity on whether the support payments will be the same, which would be a relatively very small amount for companies that have much higher bills, or higher to ensure a safety net for those firms at risk.

"I'm not able at this point to set out the exact details of the scheme," the spokesperson said when asked how the support would be equivalent.

Ministers and officials are reportedly struggling to find a mechanism for setting a limit to businesses' energy costs, with companies on complex contracts, which often hedge against future price increases.

A "fiscal event" is expected to be held towards the end of next week laying out the full details of the energy support package, as well as Truss's tax-cutting plans. However, the exact date has yet to be chosen, with the situation complicated by Truss attending the UN general assembly in New York and parliament then due to go into conference recess.

The government is looking at shortening the recess, both at the beginning and end, given concerns about inaction, but it has promised not to encroach on either the Labour or Conservative party conferences.

6

Number of months for which Liz Truss said support for firms and public bodies would be available



Inflation falls below 10% despite high food prices as cost of fuel finally drops

Larry Elliott
Economics editor

Falling petrol prices pushed Britain's inflation rate back below 10% in August, in the first easing of upward pressure on the cost of living in almost a year.

The consumer prices index - the government's preferred measure of inflation - dipped from 10.1% in July to 9.9% last month, with cheaper motoring costs more than offsetting the impact of dearer food.

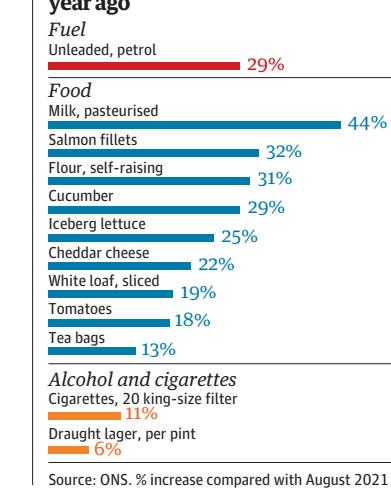
Despite the better-than-expected figure, the Bank of England is still expected to raise interest rates by 0.5 points when its monetary policy committee (MPC) meets next week.

Inflation remains more than three times higher than the 3.2% recorded in August 2021 and almost five times higher than the official 2% target. Core inflation - which strips out fuel, food, alcohol and tobacco and is closely monitored by the MPC - rose from 6.2% to 6.3% last month.

Data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) showed petrol prices dropping by more than 14p a litre in August as a fall in global oil prices was finally reflected in cheaper motoring costs. The annual inflation rate for motor fuels eased from 43.7% to 32.1% between July and August.

▲ Although food inflation rose for the 13th month in a row, the overall rate dropped to 9.9% PHOTOGRAPH: CHRISTOPHER THOMOND/THE GUARDIAN

Despite some recent falls, many prices are still much higher than a year ago



FTSE 100
-108.56
7277.30

All share
-59.29
3996.83

Dow Indl
+96.79
31201.76

Nikkei 225
-796.01
27818.62

£/€
1.1583
+0.0056

£/\$
1.1580
+0.0035



'We're going to be skint'

One family's struggle to cope with cost of living

Zoe Wood

Winter is the “big fear because we don’t know how it’s going to shake out – all we know is we’re going to be skint”, said Dan Collins, speaking of the impact of rising living costs on his family. Collins and his partner, Lucy Woolhead, had their twins, Scarlett and Beatrix, in February and the babies’ lives have been in step with the living costs crisis.

While official figures published yesterday showed that runaway inflation dipped below 10% last month, as lower petrol and diesel prices offset dearer food, this was just a “pause for breath”, noted Sarah Coles of the analysts Hargreaves Lansdown.

Coles said motoring costs were more of a concern for those on higher incomes. “Those on the lowest incomes, who are suffering the most as a result of rising prices, are still facing impossible energy bills and horrible hikes in the cost of food.”

The rising price of the weekly shop is putting household budgets under intense strain, with the average annual grocery bill now £5,181, up £571 or 12.4%, according to the market research firm Kantar.

Collins and Woolhead, who are in their mid-30s, rent a terrace house in Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire. They had “just about enough money coming in” to cover outgoings and groceries, until April when their energy bill increased by £130 a month, they said.

When the price cap rose to almost £2,000 for a typical household in April, their direct debit almost doubled to £270. Most of their shopping now comes from the grocery discounter Aldi. Collins said: “We also get quite a bit of our housing supplies from

The current cap leaves us with just £50 for groceries, baby stuff and fuel

Lucy Woolhead
New mother



▲ Dan Collins and Lucy Woolhead, who say they cannot afford to buy extras, including for their twins

PHOTOGRAPH: GRAEME ROBERTSON/GUARDIAN

Poundland.” The couple were braced for their energy bill to rise again next month after Ofgem said the price cap would increase to £3,549 in October. The government then announced the “energy price guarantee”, capping the typical bill at £2,500. However, many people still have much higher bills than a year ago, when the cap was £1,138.

“The current cap leaves us with just £50 for groceries, baby stuff and fuel,” Woolhead said. “We’re left with essentially £200 a month of spending money.”

Collins, who is paid just over the minimum wage as a copywriter, earns about £1,500 a month; Woolhead has statutory maternity pay, and there are child benefit and universal credit payments. They qualified for the first government cost of living payment, worth £326.

Woolhead said she was sad not to have the cash to buy extras, such as toys for the girls. “I’m still happy in the day-to-day but it is a lot harder to be happy because you have got this whole thing looming over you.”

Why MPC is unlikely to cut interest rates

The drop in inflation from 10.1% in July to 9.9% last month is not going to trouble the Bank of England’s policymakers when they meet next week to set interest rates. Its monetary policy committee (MPC) is on a mission to increase the cost of borrowing to bring down inflation to 2%. Prices growth that sticks at almost 10% is still too high. One month’s figures are not a trend.

The MPC will also ponder several other developments that can be considered reasons to increase interest rates. Top of the list will be the government’s £150bn energy subsidy scheme, which will benefit millions of people who, many have argued, don’t need to be cushioned from the gas price shock.

Better-off households are more likely to spend the money on imported items that are in short supply, thereby forcing retailers to increase their prices further. Higher interest rates will feed through to monthly mortgage bills and persuade them to rein in their spending. At least that’s the theory.

Wages are another subject of concern. In July, wages growth increased to 5.2% from 4.7% in June. These figures may be well short of the inflation rate and reveal the worst squeeze on living standards in two generations but they still worry the MPC, which fears higher wages will trigger higher prices in years to come.

Last, there is the impact from inflationary trends across the rest of Europe and the US. The

European Central Bank increased its base rate by a record margin last week to combat inflation, while the US Federal Reserve is poised to continue increasing lending rates despite a fall in inflation from 9.1% in June to 8.3% in August.

The dollar will rise and the pound will fall if global investors can get a better return in New York deposit accounts. If sterling falls, the price of foreign imports will rise further, putting even more pressure on UK inflation.

Arguments against tackling inflation with higher interest rates will probably fall on closed ears. The pressure on the Bank to follow its rivals – if only to prevent the currency from another tumble – will be too strong, say most analysts. Phillip Inman

Food price inflation rose for a 13th successive month, hitting a fresh 14-year high of 13.1% in August, with marked increases in the cost of milk, cheese and eggs.

The ONS said the cost of food and non-alcoholic beverages had risen throughout 2022, and the 1.5% increase between July and August 2022 was the largest between the two months since 1995.

Clothing and footwear prices increased by 1.1% between July and August as summer sales ended, compared with a 0.2% rise last year, pushing up that annual inflation rate from 6.6% to 7.6%.

Further increases in the annual inflation rate are expected in the coming months as households are hit by rising domestic energy bills, but the capping of the average annual bill at £2,500 will mean the peak is now expected to be lower, at about 11%.

Separate ONS figures for producer prices – which are a guide to inflationary pressure in the pipeline – showed

some signs of easing. Fuel and raw material costs rose by 20.5% in the year to August, down from 22.6% in the year to July, while the cost of goods leaving factory gates was up by 16.1% in the year to August compared with 17.1% in the year to July.

The general secretary of the union Unite, Sharon Graham, said: “Rocketing inflation may have been eased last month but that won’t last. Current levels continue to threaten the living standards of millions of workers.”

Paul Dales, the chief UK economist at Capital Economics, said: “With the oil price now just above \$90 a barrel, fuel prices will fall further in the coming months. And after the 25% month-on-month rise in utility prices on 1 October, as the Ofgem price cap increases to £2,500, which will add 0.7 percentage points to CPI inflation and drive it to a peak of about 11%, the government price freeze means that utility price inflation will slump from 69.7% now to zero by October next year.”



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Business view

Nils Pratley



The EU's energy windfall tax is a bold measure with a big price tag. Britain could do even better

The European Union's big move on energy companies' excess profits arrived with a big number: €140bn (£120bn) to be raised via a windfall tax, with the lion's share from generators who are the accidental beneficiaries of high gas prices. Does it put the UK's efforts to shame?

Well, up to a point. The EU has definitely been bolder in making its levy on generators upfront and compulsory: a revenue cap will be set at €180 per megawatt hour, with the excess going to member states. There will be no wriggle room. But the drawback is that the EU hasn't designed its measures on a fuel-by-fuel basis. A cap at €180 squeezes coal plants, whose input costs have also risen, but it is still extremely generous towards nuclear plants and windfarms, whose costs are fixed and substantially lower.

The UK's non-windfall tax approach, remember, is to negotiate with nuclear, wind, solar and biomass generators to secure lower energy prices quickly – albeit at the risk, as many have pointed out, of giving away too much future value via new contracts for difference.

"If was sitting in Whitehall preparing to negotiate with the UK companies, I would be pleased that the EU has done it," says independent energy analyst Peter Atherton. "But I would be worried that they have set the cap so high, and not designed it on a fuel-by-fuel basis."

In other words, there is now a read-across figure for the UK to aim at. But there is still scope to

craft a more finely tuned package that applies different prices to different forms of local generation. We're not much further on: UK ministers still need to be aggressive – and transparent – in their dealmaking.

Walking away from Feet

Fund manager Terry Smith has a good line in cycling analogies, one of which flows from the observation that the Tour de France has never been won, and never will be, by a rider who wins all 21 stages. Some stages suit sprinters, climbers dominate others, and there are usually a couple of individual time trials.

In the same way, it's pointless to hunt for a fund manager capable of outperforming under all conditions. Best to look for qualities of endurance. In his main £23.5bn Fundsmith Equity Fund, that is exactly what Smith has displayed: an average annual return of 16% since launch in 2010, even if a few punctures have been suffered in the past year. (Disclosure: I am an investor.)

Investors in the separate Fundsmith Emerging Equities

There is now a figure for the UK to aim at. But ministers still need to be aggressive – and transparent – in their dealmaking

Trust (Feet), on the other hand, have had a different experience. This is the emerging markets investment trust launched in 2014. It has never produced the goods. An annualised increase in net asset value of 4.5% isn't appalling, but it is definitely mediocre.

Indeed, it is so mediocre that, highly unusually in the fund management world, Smith is in effect sacking himself. Feet's portfolio will be liquidated and the cash returned to investors. The move is embarrassing for Smith, but one admires the willingness to concede the lack of an edge. With assets worth £340m, the trust is a tiddler versus the main fund, but Smith's firm will still say goodbye to about £3m in annual fees.

Why did Feet fall flat? Smith answered the question himself a few years ago when he said every investment decision in an emerging market involves making a macro judgment on factors such as currencies. Macro is not his specialism. Picking winners from a tightly defined pool of large companies with high returns on capital is, as the main fund shows. At Feet, he was a cyclist playing a different sport, as he should probably have realised.

Naked and confused

Naked Wines connects wine drinkers with winemakers, according to the blurb. What the e-commerce outfit doesn't do, it seems, is connect with its poor old shareholders, who were left to try to decipher two cryptic after-hours announcements on Tuesday.

The first hinted at a new strategy but added an alarming line about "active discussions to address our credit facility to reflect any revised plan". The second said a non-executive director, representing a 10% investor, had resigned with immediate effect after three weeks in post; no reason was given.

Naked is listed on Aim, where disclosure obligations sometimes feel like whatever the company chooses to say. Even so, this degree of confusing communication is absurd. The shares plunged by a third. Naked's chairman, Darryl Rawlings, needs to find his clothes and start explaining.

Record profits for Zara owner despite cost of living crisis

Joanna Partridge

The owner of the fashion retailer Zara has reported surging sales and profits in the first half of the year, consumer demand for new clothing having remained strong despite the cost of living pressures.

Inditex, which is Europe's biggest clothing retailer with a portfolio of chains including Massimo Dutti, Pull&Bear, and Bershka, said profits for the six months to July had risen



▲ Zara is owned by Europe's biggest clothing retailer, Inditex of Spain

UK house prices rise at fastest rate in 19 years

Rupert Jones

UK house price growth surged to a 19-year high of 15.5% in July, official figures show, with a typical home having £39,000 added to its value in the past 12 months.

However, commentators said the annual rate had been pushed artificially high because prices dropped in July 2021 as the stamp duty holiday, introduced during the pandemic, began to be scaled back.

by 41%, hitting a new record. Sales increased by about a quarter and were up in all regions.

The company said revenue from February to the end of July rose to €14.8bn (£12.8bn) from €11.9bn a year earlier, an increase of nearly 25%. It reported a net profit of €1.79bn.

The Spanish retailer reported a bounce back in sales this spring, after shoppers flooded to its high-street stores when Covid restrictions eased.

Inditex's chief executive, Óscar García Maceiras, said the company had "great growth potential".

Inditex's shares jumped by 5% in morning trade on the Madrid stock exchange following the results.

Amid growing cost of living pressures on consumers, Inditex said sales momentum had continued in recent weeks. It said it expected to invest more than €1bn this year in increasing its business, by spending on its stores and online sales platform and improving customer experience.

It is forecasting that online orders will account for more than 30% of all sales by 2024. However it opened shops in 24 markets in the six months to July, bringing its total number of outlets to 6,370.

In March, Inditex closed all 500 of its outlets in Russia, which resulted in a €216m charge on the business.

In May, Zara joined the ranks of retailers starting to charge shoppers for returning unwanted items, introducing a £1.95 fee for online returns.

The Office for National Statistics, which issued the data, said the doubling of the annual rate of house price growth – from 7.8% in June to 15.5% in July – "was mainly because of a base effect from the falls in prices seen this time last year as a result of changes in the stamp duty holiday".

Jonathan Hopper, the chief executive of Garrington Property Finders, said the jump was "first and foremost a statistical anomaly".

The annual increases in England and Wales were even bigger, at 16.4% and 17.6% respectively, though these disguised wide regional variations. In Scotland and Northern Ireland there were rises of 9.9% and 9.6%.

Hopper said people "of a nervous disposition may want to look away from the official house price data in the coming months, as we are set for a rollercoaster ride".

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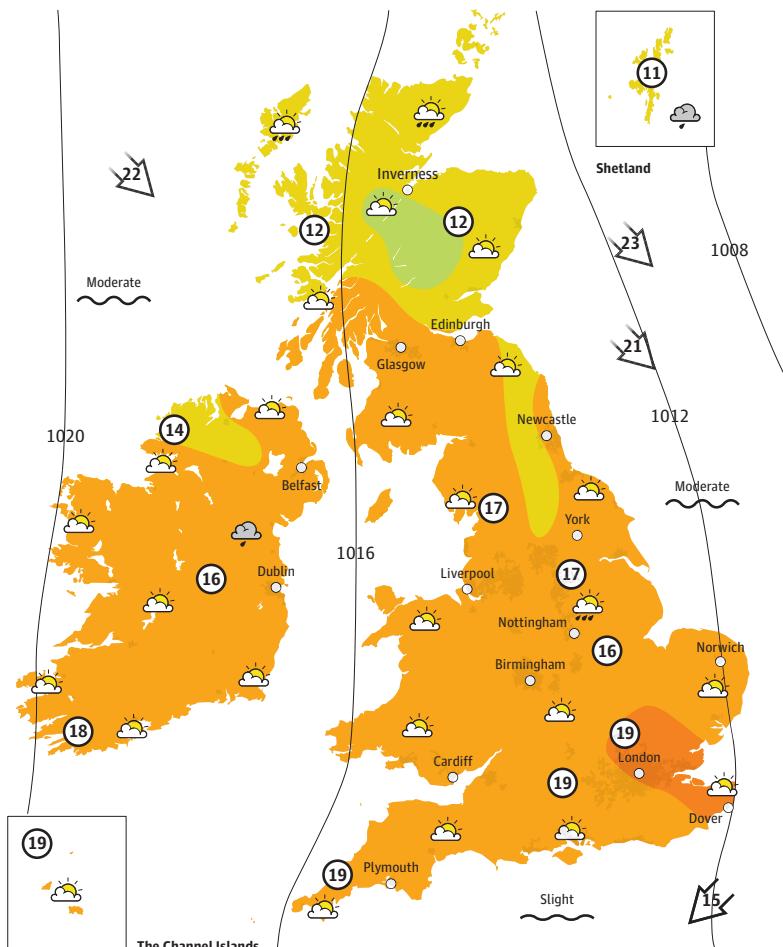


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Weather

Thursday 15 September 2022

UK and Ireland Noon today



Forecast

Low 8 High 14
Tomorrow

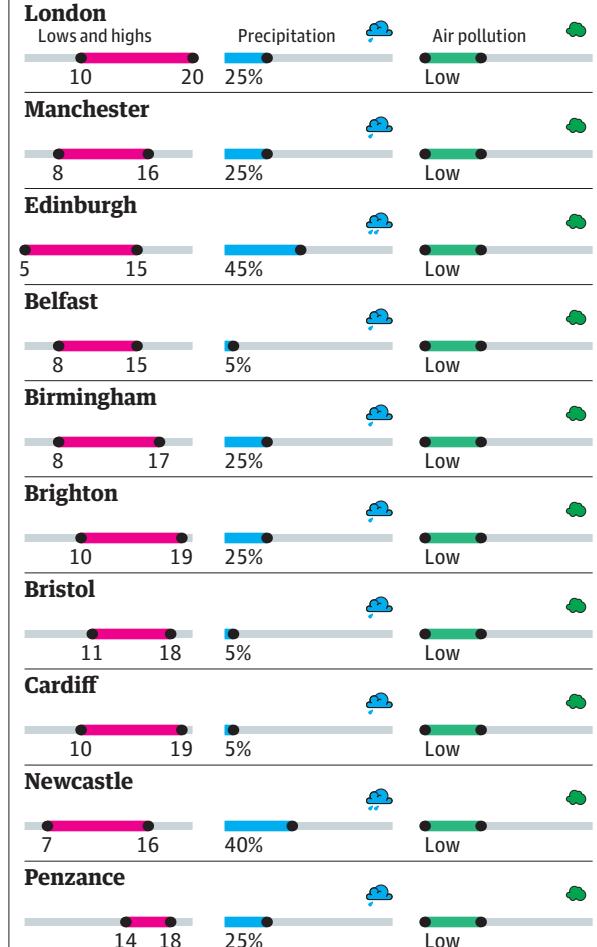
Low 5 High 15
Saturday

Carbon count

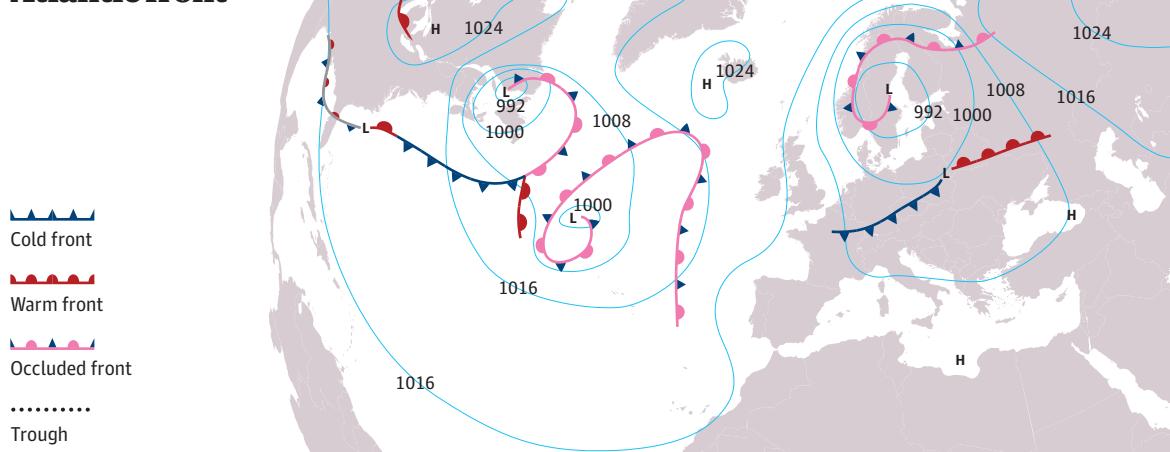
Daily atmospheric CO₂ readings from Mauna Loa, Hawaii (ppm):
Latest 416.18
Weekly average 416.33
04 Sep 2022 413.41
14 Sep 2012 391.85
Pre-industrial base 280
Safe level 350

Source: NOAA-ESRL

Around the UK



Atlantic front



High tides

Source: © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Times are local UK times

Aberdeen	0501	4.2m	1733	3.9m
Avonmouth	1103	12.4m	2317	12.1m
Barrow	0302	9.1m	1521	8.5m
Belfast	0256	3.5m	1522	3.3m
Cobh	0916	3.8m	2135	3.8m
Cromer	1009	5.0m	2244	4.5m
Dover	0250	6.4m	1506	6.6m
Dublin	0305	4.0m	1537	3.6m
Galway	0903	4.7m	2124	4.6m
Greenock	0413	3.6m	1628	3.3m
Harwich	0332	3.9m	1538	4.0m
Holyhead	0156	5.5m	1417	5.1m
Hull	1002	7.6m	2220	6.8m
Leith	0626	5.4m	1853	5.0m
Liverpool	0242	9.1m	1500	8.6m

Sun & Moon



Sun rises 0635
Sun sets 1914
Moon rises 2112
Moon sets 1242
Last Quarter 17 Sept

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Lighting up

Belfast	1942 to 0659
Birm'ham	1922 to 0643
Brighton	1915 to 0637
Bristol	1926 to 0647
Carlisle	1928 to 0645
Cork	1949 to 0710
Dublin	1941 to 0700
Glasgow	1935 to 0651
Harlech	1932 to 0652
Inverness	1935 to 0648
London	1914 to 0636
M'chester	1925 to 0644
Newcastle	1924 to 0641
Nottingham	1910 to 0630
Penzance	1936 to 0659

Weatherwatch

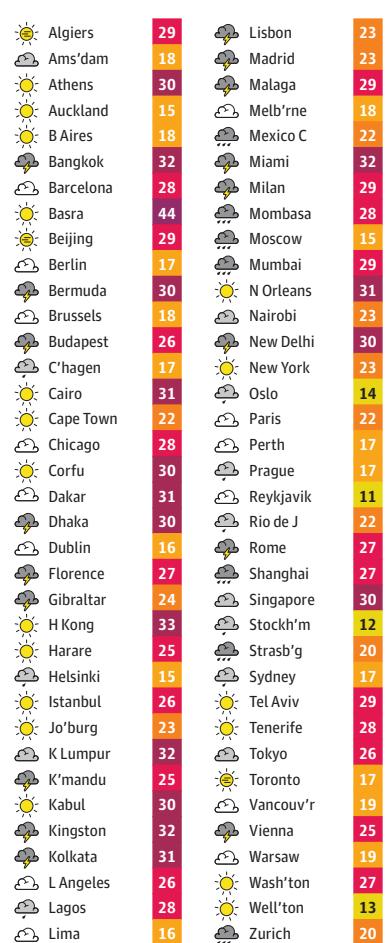
As autumn takes hold, and the September gales arrive from the south-west in Britain, birders head to coastal headlands in the hope of seeing pelagic birds which rarely venture close to shore.

In strong winds, often accompanied by rain, they scan the sea in search of true ocean wanderers such as the great shearwater from the south Atlantic, Sabine's gull from the Arctic, and the aptly named storm petrel. The latter - barely larger than house martins and weakened by their efforts to head back out to sea - often fall victim to predatory gulls if they have been blown towards the coast.

When winds are strong enough to earn the storm an official name, seabirds may even be blown far inland, in what is termed a "wreck". These often occur later in the winter, when the birds are in a weaker state than usual.

The good news is that after feeding on inland water bodies such as lakes and reservoirs, some wrecked seabirds do manage to find their way back to sea. This year, however, the spectre of avian flu suggests many of the birds blown onshore will either be dead or too sick to make it back to their oceanic winter home. **Stephen Moss**

Around the world



Football

Toney could earn England call from Southgate

Page 45 →

Cricket

Potts at sixes and sevens in County Championship

Page 42 →



Sport



▲ Ben Stokes congratulates Jonny Bairstow at the end of his stunning innings against New Zealand at Trent Bridge

TOM JENKINS/THE GUARDIAN

Natural born leader

Stokes has given England a new mindset but bigger challenges await

Mark Ramprakash



As I look back over a summer when Ben Stokes has inspired an extraordinary turnaround of England's fortunes in Test cricket, I keep returning to a more distant memory. It was 2013, and Stokes and I were in Australia, his first England Lions tour and my first as batting coach. He was sent home after coming back very late one evening or, more accurately, early one morning.

David Parsons, the England and Wales Cricket Board's performance director, and the first-team coach, Andy Flower, happened to be over at the time and sat in on the disciplinary meeting. The feeling in the meeting was that Stokes did not seem to show any contrition at all and when it ended and he got up to leave, Flower - who had stayed quiet up to this point - said to him: "You really don't want to play for England, do you?" Before he slipped out the door, Stokes replied: "Just watch me, pal."

He made his Test debut later that year and we've been watching him ever since.

I remember also the Bristol incident and how Stokes really went through the mill. The aftermath of that incident, and the ensuing court case, was horrendous for him and it took a strong character to come through it. He returned to the international team on a one-day trip to New Zealand in 2018, which I was also on.

We had a team meeting at the start of the trip and as it started Trevor Bayliss told the group that Stokes would like to say something. He said a few words about how much it meant for him to be reselected and became quite emotional. I think to save him from

tearing up Bayliss interjected "OK, Stokesy, that's enough." But Stokes said: "No, I'm not finished yet." Quick as a flash Moeen Ali butted in: "OK, Stokesy, no need to get punchy." The whole room erupted in laughter. I remember that moment and the warmth it showed existed towards him in that group.

He is, to put it mildly, not your typical England Test captain. He has been known to drink and to smoke, to fight and to misbehave. He is covered in tattoos and is not privately educated. I suppose we weren't sure what we were going to get with him - other great all-rounders such as Ian Botham and Andrew Flintoff have found it difficult to navigate the twin demands of leadership and being the heart of the team in both disciplines - but Stokes is clearly a natural leader.

The management of certain players has been particularly striking. He was straight and firm with Ollie Robinson, but it was done in terms of praising the bowler's potential and skill, while leaving him in no doubt as to the physical requirements of international cricket, and has inspired an immediate improvement. He has welcomed Jimmy Anderson and Stuart Broad back into the fold, got them excited about the future and buying in to a new mindset.

Jonny Bairstow's excellence across the summer is largely down to the environment Stokes has created, which has allowed him to come into the middle-order to be aggressive, on the understanding that if he gets it wrong the management are fully behind him.

Younger players such as Ollie Pope and Zak Crawley see a captain who has been through the ups and downs of international sport and who shows great empathy with the challenges they face.

The other part of a captain's job is on the field and in terms of reading the ebb and flow of matches, the timing of bowling changes and the nuances of field placings, he seems to get most things right. As a bowler he has managed his own workload brilliantly and still had a big impact.

He has a really good feel of things and it has been notable that on occasions when things weren't going England's way - for example, at Edgbaston against a fine India side, where England conceded a big first-innings lead - heads were held high.

He has not got everything right. *He has managed his own workload brilliantly* I saw him at Durham at the start of the season and he told me his players would only play with the freedom he wanted if he, as leader, walked the walk. As a batter he has certainly done that, but with mixed results.

At Old Trafford, he produced an innings of great class and character when the pressure was on, but too often his cavalier approach has meant he surrendered his wicket too easily. At Edgbaston he was dropped at extra cover, dropped at mid-off and then finally caught.

It would be churlish to be too critical but he is such a good player that we expect the highest standards. As captain, some of his innings have been a poor example for the group.

There are bigger challenges to come - not least an Ashes series next summer. The opponents England have beaten over the past few months included a fading New Zealand and a South Africa team with the weakest batting lineup I have seen from a major nation.

Of their first eight batters at the Oval only the captain, Dean Elgar, had played more than 10 Tests. That was partly because of injury but it must be a real concern for South Africa, particularly as there is a sense the production line that not long ago produced Graeme Smith, Herschelle Gibbs, Hashim Amla and Jonty Rhodes has dried up. Worse, it feels that there is not just a loss of talent in their Test team, but a loss of interest in it.

Thanks to Stokes and his improving, entertaining side, there seems no imminent danger of England suffering that fate.

Cricket LV= Insurance County Championship

Potts' magnificent seven shoots down Leicestershire

Tanya Aldred

Matthew Potts followed up six wickets in **Leicestershire**'s first innings with seven for 49 in their second, to assemble a career-best, all-dancing, 13 for 101 and put **Durham** within sight of victory. Potts muscled through three spells, decimating winless Leicestershire's scorecard.

With scores level at Headingley, and **Essex** nine wickets down, Shane Snater smeared the winning runs to snatch a one-wicket victory in a thriller against **Yorkshire**. Snater's 65 not out in 51 balls propped up Essex after they'd made a hash of chasing 162, slipping from 51 for two to 64 for six. Steve Patterson, to be released by Yorkshire at the end of the season, grabbed five for 46.

Somerset, who started the day



▲ Matthew Potts has taken 13 wickets in the match for Durham

by issuing a press release criticising the ECB's current cricket schedule as "unacceptable," crawled to an advantage on a slowing pitch in the crucial relegation face-off at Edgbaston. As Toms Lammonby and Abel, then George Bartlett (91 not out) and Lewis Goldsworthy, admirably saw off **Warwickshire**'s

bowlers, members chewed over a 300 lead and the club's statement: "The current domestic playing programme, which resulted in only four one-day matches being played in Taunton over 43 days in the height of summer this year, with 17 Somerset players unavailable, is unacceptable to the club, its members and the South West's cricketing public."

Tom Curran hit his maiden first-class century as title-chasing **Surrey** grabbed their match against **Northamptonshire** by the collar. Because of the vagaries of injury, the IPL and Covid, Curran hadn't played a first-class game since April 2019, but slotted right back in, hitting three sixes in his 93-ball 115. Surrey's 82-run first-innings lead looked

crucial when Northants lost early second-innings wickets, but half-centuries from Luke Proter and Ricardo Vasconcelos gave Northants a 100-plus lead by stumps to set up a tantalising final day.

All was smooth sailing at Lord's for **Glamorgan** until 10 minutes before tea. From there, they lost eight for 52, squandering an opening stand of 123 between David Lloyd and Edward Byrom. Just 15 runs in front, defeat looms against promotion rivals **Middlesex**.

A double hundred for Jake Libby, his first, put **Worcestershire** in the driving seat at damp Hove, cracking quick runs once the rain relented. The visitors declared with a lead of 218, giving **Sussex** time to lose captain Tom Haines before the close.

Results and cricket scoreboards

Football

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Napoli	2	2	0	0	7	1	+6	6
Ajax	2	1	0	1	5	2	+3	3
Liverpool	2	1	0	1	3	5	-2	3
Rangers	2	0	0	2	0	7	-7	0
Rangers	(0)	0	Napoli	(0)	3			
			Politanu 68pen					
			Raspadori 85					
			Ndombole 90					

Group E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Milan	2	1	1	0	4	2	+2	4
Dinamo Zagreb	2	1	0	1	2	3	-1	3
Red Bull Salzburg	2	0	2	0	2	2	0	2
Chelsea	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1
Milan	(1)	3	Dinamo Zagreb	(0)	1			
Giroud 45pen			Orsic 56					
Saelemaekers 47								
Pobega 77			64,341					
Chelsea	(0)	1	Red Bull Salzburg	(0)	1			
Sterling 48			Okafor 75					

Group F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Real Madrid	2	2	0	0	5	0	+5	6
Shakhtar Donetsk	2	1	1	0	5	2	+3	4
Celtic	2	0	1	1	1	4	-3	1
RB Leipzig	2	0	0	2	1	6	-5	0
Shakhtar Donetsk	(1)	1	Celtic	(1)	1			
Mudryk 29			Bondarenko 100g					
			20,697					
Real Madrid	(0)	2	RB Leipzig	(0)	0			
Valverde 80								
Asensio 90								

Group G

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Manchester City	2	2	0	0	6	1	+5	6
Borussia Dortmund	2	1	0	1	4	2	+2	3
FC Copenhagen	2	0	1	1	0	3	-3	1
Sevilla	2	0	1	1	0	4	-4	1
FC Copenhagen	(0)	0	Sevilla	(0)	0			
Manchester City	(0)	2	Borussia Dortmund	(0)	1			
Stones 80			Bellingham 56					
Haaland 84								

Group H

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
PSG	2	2	0	0	5	2	+3	6
Benfica	2	2	0	0	4	1	+3	6
Juventus	2	0	0	2	2	4	-2	0
Maccabi Haifa	2	0	0	2	1	5	-4	0
Juventus	(1)	1	Benfica	(1)	2			
Milik 4			João Mário 43pen					
			Neres 55					
Maccabi Haifa	(1)	1	Paris Saint-Germain	(1)	3			
Chery 24			Messi 37					
			Mbappé 69, Neymar 88					

SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Sheffield Utd	9	6	2	1	17	5	+12	20
Norwich	8	5	1	2	12	6	+6	16
Blackburn	9	5	0	4	11	11	-1	15
Reading	8	5	0	3	9	11	-2	15
Burnley	9	3	5	1	15	9	+6	14
Bristol City	8	4	2	2	16	11	+5	14
Watford	9	3	4	2	9	9	0	13
Wigan	8	3	4	1	9	10	-1	13
Preston	9	2	6	1	3	2	+1	12
Sunderland	8	3	2	3	11	9	+2	11
QPR	8	3	2	3	12	11	+1	11
Stoke	9	3	2	4	11	11	0	11
Blackpool	8	3	2	3	9	10	-1	11
Cardiff	9	3	2	4	7	10	-3	11
Hull	9	3	2	4	11	18	-7	11
Rotherham	7	2	4	1	9	6	+3	10
Millwall	8	3	1	4	9	11	-2	10

Warwickshire v Somerset

Edgbaston Somerset (4pts) lead Warwickshire (3) by 300 runs with six second-innings wickets remaining.

Somerset First innings 219 (L Gregory 60, Sajid Khan 53 no; Mohammed Siraj 5-82).

Warwickshire First innings 196 (SR Hain 67; JA Brooks 4-40).

Somerset Second innings (overnight 13-2)

*TA Lammonby c Yates b Hannon-Dalby.....40

TA Bell b Briggs.....87

GA Bartlett not out.....91

LP Goldsworthy not out.....44

Extras (b4, lb5, w6).....15

Total (for 4, 109 overs).....277

Fall 0, 7, 86, 158.

To bat DG Bedingham, GS Drissell, P Coughlin, BA Raine, TSS Mackintosh, OJ Gibson, MJ Potts.

Bowling Wright 6-0-25-0; Finan 5-1-14-2; Scriven 2-0-5-0; Parkinson 2-0-5-0.

Toss Durham elected to field.

Umpires T Lungley and CM Watt.

bowlers, members chewed over a 300 lead and the club's statement: "The current domestic playing programme, which resulted in only four one-day matches being played in Taunton over 43 days in the height of summer this year, with 17 Somerset players unavailable, is unacceptable to the club, its members and the South West's cricketing public."

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crucial when Northants lost early second-innings wickets, but half-centuries from Luke Proter and Ricardo Vasconcelos gave Northants a 100-plus lead by stumps to set up a tantalising final day.

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Tennis

Evans defeat hands Britain bumpy start

Group stage begins with a whimper as Paul prevails for the United States in three sets

Tumaini Carayol

Emirates Arena

Dan Evans said competing for Great Britain shortly after the death of Queen Elizabeth II was a "somber" experience after he lost 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 to Tommy Paul of the United States in the team's first match of the Davis Cup Finals in Glasgow.

"It was somber [during the] change of ends," said Evans. "Something was missing. That's what it is at the minute."

"We're very lucky to be playing. Thankfully the event was allowed to go on. We're just doing the best out of what we can. Yeah, it was still a good atmosphere, still enjoyed it."

While some events have been cancelled in the wake of the Queen's death, the Lawn Tennis Association said the Davis Cup would not be affected as "sport has an important role to play in bringing the country and communities together, not least in difficult times".

Each group-stage tie has begun with a minute of silence, with each full team present on court before play on Tuesday, the first day of play. No music will be played during the change of ends throughout the tie. Despite those changes, the typical sounds of drums and chants have been present at the Emirates Arena.

On the court, Great Britain faces an uphill battle after Evans was



▲ Dan Evans lost 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 to Tommy Paul in Britain's first rubber

defeated by Paul in the opening rubber between the second-ranked players.

"It's difficult. It's a tough one. But another good effort," said Evans. "That's Davis Cup, isn't it? They're all tough matches. We knew this one was going to be tough. It certainly proved to be for me. I played good tennis. Just couldn't get over the line."

The first encounter was always likely to be the most difficult one, with Britain and the United States extremely evenly matched. Evans, the world No 25, is ranked four places above Paul, while Cam Norrie and Taylor Fritz are eighth and 12th respectively.

The rankings do not quite underline the challenge Evans faced, with Paul being one of the more improved players on the tour over the past few years. He may not have any huge weapons, but he is solid in almost every department and a strong athlete. His more attacking mindset has yielded success and it did so again

as he defeated Evans in an intense, high-quality encounter on the slow courts in Glasgow.

"I'm super pumped," said Paul after a first win in the competition. "I'd love to stay undefeated. I don't know if that's super realistic. Any time I can win for my country, it's a big deal for me. Hopefully for our fans, too. Obviously at some point I'd love for it to be a bigger deal to Americans, to get American fans out there more."

The slow conditions made it difficult for both players to put the ball away, but Paul was able to impose himself, controlling the majority of points as he took the first set. Evans responded well, breaking early in the second and then serving well throughout. But Paul was the more assertive player. He broke serve at 4-3 in the decider with a spectacular forehand passing shot and then, after Evans broke him while he attempted to serve out the set, he was composed enough to break again for the victory.

"There was nothing wrong with my tennis today. Well, there was everything right with it. I just didn't take my chances I think. Missed two forehands on break points, if I remember rightly. I just didn't hit them well," said Evans.

Great Britain's captain, Leon Smith, has opted for a doubles team of Joe Salisbury and Andy Murray. Neal Skupski, the No 3 doubles player, starts the week on the bench.

The Davis Cup Finals are being played with a new format this year, the third different format in the three competitions since Kosmos, the sports investment firm co-founded by footballer Gerard Piqué, took control of the event in 2019.

Now split into two distinct phases, during the group stages each of the four groups are being held in different European cities, with Glasgow hosting Group D: Great Britain, the United States, the Netherlands and Kazakhstan. The top two teams from each group will qualify for knockout stages in Málaga in November.

Great Britain face the Netherlands on Wednesday in their second match, while the United States play Kazakhstan on Thursday.



DAN MULLAN/
THE RFU COLLECTION
VIA GETTY IMAGES

25 in a row Emily Scarratt breaks clear before going over to score England's third of 11 tries in a ruthless 73-7 victory over Wales at Ashton Gate. The win was England's 25th in a row – a world record – in what was the sides' final warmup before next month's World Cup.

Rugby union

Fears grow at Sixways over Worcester's Exeter match

Gerard Meagher

Worcester's home fixture against Exeter on Sunday is in serious doubt over unpaid wages to staff and suppliers bills while the owners admitted last night the sale of the club had not been completed.

The Warriors are due to stage their first home match of the season against the Chiefs but suppliers, who are required to run a matchday at Sixways, had set a deadline of 5pm yesterday to be paid. Senior figures at the club had separately called for the outstanding salaries of staff members – some of whom were yet to receive any of August's wages – to be paid first.

It is understood the 5pm deadline came and went and if Worcester are unable to provide those payments in time to stage Sunday's match and have to forfeit, Exeter would be awarded five points. The club's owners, Jason Whittingham and Colin Goldring, announced on Tuesday that they had agreed the terms of a sale, giving rise to optimism over the

short- and long-term future, but last night revealed the deal remains in the hands of legal representatives from both sides.

Meanwhile the club's director of rugby, Steve Diamond, said: "If people aren't paid, and suppliers aren't paid, then I don't think, logically, the game can go on. Let's hope it's not another false dawn. These people [buyers] have got to deliver and I think they're in the last throes of that. If they're not then I probably won't be sat in front of you again. That's the reality of it. If it turns out to be a cock-and-bull story then it'll be out in the wash this weekend because we won't be playing."

On Tuesday, Whittingham and Goldring said they were working closely with the buyers, who remain unidentified, to secure an "immediate deposit" to cover the operational costs required to stage the weekend's matches – Worcester's women's team are also due to host Harlequins on Saturday – as well the outstanding wages.

In a holding statement released last night, the owners said: "Worcester Warriors are still awaiting final sign-off of the heads of term on the agreement of the sale of the club to a buyer.

"The agreement remains with the lawyers of the respective parties but signing of the heads of terms is required before the sale can be concluded. We appreciate that the delay is frustrating for our loyal staff, sponsors and supporters and we thank them for their continued patience in these challenging circumstances."





Group G

Haaland haunts former club as City turn it round

Manchester City

Stones 80, Haaland 84

2

Borussia Dortmund

Bellingham 56

1

Possession

Man City	Borussia Dortmund
67%	33%

Shots on target

3	2
---	---

Total attempts

13	6
----	---

Andy Hunter
Etihad Stadium

Borussia Dortmund knew what to expect from Erling Haaland, he had plundered 86 goals in 89 appearances for them over a two and a half year period after all. It made no difference whatsoever. The Manchester City striker took his goal tally for his new club to a remarkable 13 in nine outings to condemn his old club to a cruel defeat after they had led through Jude Bellingham's header.

Haaland executed a superb acrobatic volley to convert an equally impressive cross from João Cancelo as Pep Guardiola's side recovered from a passive first half and from falling behind to maintain their 100% start to the campaign. It followed an immaculately observed minute's silence for Queen Elizabeth II.

Dortmund proved a more awkward assignment for the Premier League champions than last week's 4-0 stroll in Sevilla, plus a test of patience for Haaland and those anticipating a continuation of the goal-machine's prolific start in City colours. The centre forward was one of three former Dortmund players in City's starting line-up alongside the captain Ilkay Gündogan and Manuel Akanji, making his first start since his recent £16.7m move. A fourth, Sergio Gómez, was on the bench.

Haaland regained possession several times, had a minor off-the-ball tussle with the former Liverpool midfielder Emre Can, and helped himself to a drink from the visiting goalkeeper Alexander Meyer's water

bottle while awaiting a corner in the first half. But he did not get one sight of the Dortmund goal during a dull opening period. The striker was not alone in that regard.

Edin Terzic's side stifled City comfortably in the first half, their midfield three helping to form a compact unit that was content to let Riyad Mahrez and Jack Grealish receive the ball out wide while they shut down gaps in the centre. When danger did arise, the experienced centre-half duo of Mats Hummels and Niklas Süle were alert to it. Süle prevented Haaland capitalising on his first hint of a chance when heading away a Mahrez cross just as the former Dortmund forward rose to connect. It was not until the 41st minute that Kevin de Bruyne found an opportunity to release Haaland behind the German defence but that opening was snuffed out by Hummels' interception.

City created little before the interval with Guardiola a picture of frustration at his players' frequent failure to prevent Dortmund playing out from the back. Grealish was another source of irritation. The

£100m man was found in space on the left regularly but rarely got the better of Thomas Meunier at right back or beat the visiting defence with a telling cross.

It was Dortmund who created the first real chance of note when Jude Bellingham spun away from Gündogan and Rodri in midfield before sending Raphaël Guerreiro rampaging down the left. The full back flicked the ball outside to Salih Ozcan, who stepped inside Akanji but curled a shot straight into the arms of Ederson.

The visitors placed City under sustained pressure immediately after the restart by attacking with more intensity, speed and in greater numbers. Guardiola summoned his assistants for an emergency meeting in the technical area but, by the time their changes were introduced, Dortmund had inflicted damage.

Marco Reus almost delivered the breakthrough after the impressive Bellingham released Ozcan down the left with an incisive first time ball. Ozcan played the Dortmund veteran in behind the City defence and



Inevitable Erling wins it for City

Erling Haaland pops up again to complete Manchester City's comeback victory

MARC ATKINS/GETTY IMAGES

Group A

Van Dijk admits form dip but stays optimistic

Defender believes Liverpool can build on their win over Ajax after hurtful Napoli loss

Andy Hunter

Virgil van Dijk has admitted his form has dipped this season but believes Liverpool showed signs of recovery in their Champions League win against Ajax.

The Netherlands captain has been hurt by Liverpool's recent performances and described last week's defeat at Napoli as "absolutely shocking" and "unacceptable". Jürgen Klopp's side responded with a much-improved display and valuable win against the Dutch champions on Tuesday, and Van Dijk claimed it could be a platform to improve on a personal and collective level.

"I can do much better and I think this was a good step in the right direction for all of us," the defender said. "It is like it is: if you perform well as a team everyone is going to do well if you are in the same direction.

"If we do well I obviously get praise and if we don't then I don't, but I still think I need to improve. The only way to do it is play the games, learn from the mistakes, don't listen to the outside world too much, speak to the people close to you. We are all human beings and we all want to do as well as we can and the same goes for me. I know for a fact I can do better - but we all can do better.

"I feel very hurt if we concede goals

and don't keep clean sheets and I feel that responsibility but that's a good thing. I want to turn this season around not for myself but for all of us associated with the club and we want to perform as good as we can. Luckily for us this season is going to be so long with so many games and competitions; let's just go for it, enjoy it. We will still have difficult moments but why not enjoy it?"

Van Dijk admitted there was nothing to enjoy about the Napoli defeat

'Last week was unacceptable and we definitely had a reality check'

Virgil van Dijk



▲ Virgil van Dijk feels Liverpool's win over Ajax is something to build on

BSR AGENCY/GETTY IMAGES

Ederson's goal opened up when he checked back inside Akanji's despairing lunge. Reus lifted his shot over the City keeper but also wide of the far post. Bellingham softened the blow of the miss moments later.

The City crowd rose to applaud the imminent triple introduction of Phil Foden, Bernardo Silva and Julián Álvarez. But the ball was in the back of City's net before the players they replaced had sat down. Ozcan beat Haaland to a corner from Giovanni Reyna, son of the former City captain Claudio, and flicked on to Reus lurking unmarked on the far side of the penalty area. The Dortmund captain placed a cross back in to the six-yard area where Bellingham, reacting far quicker than Haaland or Akanji, darted between his two former teammates to beat Ederson with a glancing header from close range.

Guardiola's substitutions improved City immeasurably in the final third yet Haaland would endure more frustration before haunting his former club. The striker was given a first real sight of goal when De Bruyne's chip played through down

the right channel but, from a tight angle, he shot wide. A Foden cross then appeared destined for the sliding Haaland only for Hummels to intervene yet again with a challenge that Dortmund celebrated like a winning goal. Too soon.

With 10 minutes remaining an unlikely saviour emerged in the form of Stones. The defender collected a pass from De Bruyne and opted to try his luck from 20 yards out. Stones' drive swerved into the near top corner of Meyer's goal. The keeper could have done better than wave at the shot as it flew by although the pace and dip were mitigating factors. Then came the moment Haaland and City had longed for, and Dortmund had feared. He did not disappoint.

Manchester City
4-3-3
Ederson; Stones, Akanji, Aké, Cancelo; De Bruyne, Rodri, Gündogan (Silva 58); Mahrez (Álvarez 58), Haaland (Phillips 90), Grealish (Foden 58)

Referee Daniele Orsato (It)

Borussia Dortmund
4-3-3
Meyer; Meunier, Süle, Hummels, Guerreiro; Bellingham, Can, Özcan (Moukoko 88); Reyna (Malen 62), Modeste (Schlotterbeck 78), Reus (Adeyemi 88)

Football In brief

England

Southgate ponders call-up for striker Toney

Ivan Toney is in Gareth Southgate's thoughts as the England manager prepares to name his final squad before the World Cup - for the upcoming Nations League fixtures against Italy and Germany.

The Brentford striker has started the season in fine form, scoring five Premier League goals and adding two assists in the competition, and Southgate will consider whether to give him a first call-up. No English player has scored more goals than Toney in Europe's top five leagues this season.

England face Italy at the San Siro on Friday week before hosting Germany at Wembley on the following Monday in what will be the last games before they kick-off in Qatar against Iran on 21 November. It is unclear whether Marcus Rashford will make a return when Southgate

announces his squad today. The Manchester United striker has also begun the campaign brightly, scoring three league goals and making two assists. He has not travelled for his club's Europa League tie at FC Sheriff today, with the manager Erik ten Hag saying it was a consequence of a muscle injury that he picked up in the win over Arsenal on the Sunday before last. Southgate has further injury concerns over Jordan Pickford, Kyle Walker, Luke Shaw and Jordan Henderson. **David Hytner**

Glenavon

Atherton becomes UK's youngest player at 13

The Northern Irish schoolboy Christopher Atherton became



▲ Christopher Atherton (right) made his Glenavon debut and set up a goal

apart from the reaction against Ajax. "We were absolutely shocking that night. We know it - it hurts all of us, it hurts me. We spoke about it, we drew a line under it and we showed glimpses of what we normally are. More than glimpses by the way, but it is something we have to carry on."

Despite the self-criticism and scathing analysis of the loss in Italy he suggested some pundits had shown a lack of understanding of the team's form this season.

"The obvious criticism is there but ex-pros and players who have played at this level know there are times when you can have a blip, a period like this unfortunately, and it is how you react to it," he said. "What we did last week was unacceptable, all of us, and the days after that game we definitely had a reality check. We spoke with each other and we have to carry on."

"We are good if we perform as a team. That's the reason behind the success we had over the last five years. We press as a team, we defend as a team and if you start doing it in bits and people are not in the best form of their life it is tough."

the youngest senior footballer in the United Kingdom on Tuesday night aged 13. The schoolboy broke a record that had stood for 42 years when, aged 13 years and 329 days, he went on as a second-half substitute for Glenavon. Amazingly, Atherton's first touch was an assist when he set up his side's sixth goal as they beat Dollingstown 6-0 in the League Cup. The striker is almost exactly a year younger than the previous youngest professional UK player, Eamon Collins, who made his Blackpool debut aged 14 years and 323 days in 1980. **PA Media**

Huddersfield

Schofield's brief reign comes to abrupt end

Danny Schofield has been sacked as the manager of Huddersfield after only 69 days in the role. The Terriers have lost six of their opening eight games and announced the end of Schofield's reign following Tuesday's 2-1 defeat to Wigan. Schofield was appointed as Carlos Corberán's successor on 7 July - after the Spaniard quit following the playoff final defeat to Nottingham Forest. **PA Media**

Group E

Okafor cancels out Sterling as Potter's Chelsea start with a draw

Chelsea	1
Sterling 48	
RB Salzburg	1
Okafor 75	
Possession	
Chelsea 72%	RB Salzburg 28%
Shots on target	
3	3
Corners	
2	2
David Hytner	
Stamford Bridge	

After everything that has gone on over the past week or so, all of the upheaval, sparked by the sacking of Thomas Tuchel, Chelsea needed something here. Graham Potter needed something here. It was the new manager's first experience of a Champions League tie, a detail to highlight his sudden ascent. It would be a wild night for him.

For most of the second half, it felt as though Raheem Sterling had kick-started Potter's tenure. With a roll of his studs to set the ball and a swish of his right boot, the winger found the far corner and Chelsea could sense a similar ignition point for their Champions League campaign - following

the trauma of the defeat at Dinamo Zagreb. Salzburg had other ideas. As Potter directed his players in new shapes, it was a battle for cohesion and the sucker punch would arrive. Thiago Silva had been a case study in how to defend, a model of composure, hearing praise from the home support. Then he erred.

The ball was his to win on the left hand side of the Chelsea defence only he mistimed his challenge on the substitute, Junior Adamu, and Salzburg were in. Adamu crossed low, Noah Okafor made his move and his shot deflected in off César Azpilicueta. Chelsea tried to rally but their late push came to nothing. For Potter,

there was only frustration. It had been impossible to escape the subdued atmosphere that clung to the spectacle in the countdown to kick-off; the music slow and doleful, the union jacks hanging behind one of the goals. "RIP Your Majesty," read a banner.

It was a pair of Chelsea pensioners who emerged first from the tunnel to lay wreaths and there were loud renditions of God Save The Queen from both ends - in the absence of Uefa allowing the national anthem to be played over the PA system.

Potter's entrance was the definition of low-key - out of necessity. Wearing a black suit and tie, he

ducked left into his technical area, where he briefly applauded all four corners of the stadium. The response was decent.

Potter's first Chelsea line-up featured three full-backs and the centre-halves, Wesley Fofana and Kalidou Koulibaly, recruited over the summer at a combined cost of £108.8m, on the bench. Ben Chilwell joined them there. What was noticeable from the early running was how high the full-back, Reece James, played on the right, which allowed Mason Mount to tuck in ahead of him and Kai Havertz to roam from the No10 role. The system was fluid. Potter wants assurance on the ball, the confidence to play out of tight situations but Kepa Arrizabalaga almost unhinged his team with a heavy pass to Jorginho on the edge of the area. Benjamin Sesko jumped in to win the ball and Salzburg looked as if they were in.

The action meandered in the first half, with Salzburg carrying the physical fight, particularly through Sesko and Strahinja Pavlovic, towering figures at the front and back. There was time for the home support to salute



Potter's predecessor, Thomas Tuchel, on 21 minutes. He had won Chelsea's second Champions League title in 2021. They no longer have Super Tommy Tuchel but he will always have a place in their affections. Potter has to earn it.

What would have been a surprise on the pitch here? Nothing, frankly. Not with Chelsea's history and not given the events of the past week or so when the club's new owners have sacked a Champions League winning manager after three losses this season and taken a calculated risk on a managerial novice at this level.

Chelsea laboured to join the dots before the interval, to create much of clear-cut note. Too many times from a Chelsea perspective the final action was awry or Salzburg got a body in the way. James blasted away from Pavlovic but his cross was too far in front of Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang. Raheem Sterling had the beating of his man on the other side but his deliveries could not find their target.

Chelsea's best opening in the first half had fallen to Mason Mount; he fizzed wide from the edge of the area

while Arrizabalaga had to be alert to tip away a curler from Sesko.

Potter pinned Sterling high and wide on the left and the attempt to categorise the formation was fraught. It looked more like a 3-5-2 in the second half, with Marc Cucurella on the left of the defence and Mateo Kovacic pushing up as one of the No 8s. Havertz was left to sniff out spaces around Aubameyang.

When the breakthrough came, it was all about the drive of James – a theme of the evening – and Mount's searching cross from the right. But Salzburg will not enjoy the replays, particularly the centre-half, Bernardo, who missed his kick and allowed the ball to run through for Sterling.

Chelsea	4-2-3-1
Arrizabalaga; James, Azpilicueta (Ziyech 82), Thiago Silva, Cucurella; Jorginho, Kovacic; Mount, Havertz (Loftus-Cheek 66), Sterling (Pulisic 84); Aubameyang (Broja 66)	
Rangers	0
Napoli	3
Politano 68pen, Raspadori 85, Ndombélé 90	

Referee Ivan Kruzliak (Svk)

Sterling strike is not enough

Raheem Sterling scores the first goal of Chelsea's new era but Salzburg struck back

ROB NEWELL/CAMERASPORT VIA GETTY IMAGES

Group A

McGregor heroics fail to prevent Rangers defeat



▲ Matteo Politano scores with Napoli's third penalty at Ibrox

Wayne Rooney notched a late winner from the penalty spot for Manchester United the last time Ibrox staged a Champions League group stage match. Almost 12 years on, penalties defined Rangers' return to this environment. The whiff of controversy filled the Govan air.

Allan McGregor twice denied Piotr Zielinski from 12 yards – the Polish midfielder had been ordered to retake – by the time Matteo Politano made no mistake from the same position. Napoli, so formidable in their domestic league and when hammering Liverpool in their opening Group A fixture, will claim with a fair degree of justification that they deserved to leave Glasgow with three points but Rangers dragged the Italians into a battle. After watching his team slump to successive 4-0 defeats, to Celtic and Ajax, Giovanni van Bronckhorst will look back on this tie positively. Against vastly superior opponents, Rangers were at least properly competitive for most of the game.

Rangers should have been ahead within 30 seconds, Alfredo Morelos instead heading wide from a James Tavernier cross. Napoli's Zielinski cracked McGregor's right-hand post with a half-volley. Scott Arfield forced Alex Meret into a fine save from long-range, with Napoli's response arriv-

ing via Giovanni Simeone. McGregor raced sharply from his goal to deny the striker. All this came within the opening 18 minutes.

Van Bronckhorst had adopted many of the principles of last season's run to the Europa League final with his selection here. Indeed, it is a damning indictment of Rangers' summer recruitment that not a single player who arrived during that window featured in the starting XI. Morelos, recently banished to the naughty step amid concerns over attitude and fitness, was the notable inclusion.

Napoli's control of the latter stages of the first half arrived without serious pressure being applied to McGregor. A wonderful Zielinski free-kick somehow evaded all of his teammates and Khvicha Kvaratskhelia flashed a shot wide but otherwise the home defence coped well. Given rapid capitulations at Celtic Park and in Amsterdam, Van Bronckhorst would have gleamed satisfaction from that. For the first time in three games, Rangers were applauded off at the break.

Rangers opened the second period in a similar manner to the first. This time it was Arfield who was profligate after Tavernier afforded him a free

strike at goal from 10 yards. Napoli replied via the highly rated Kvaratskhelia, who hit a fierce effort straight at McGregor after Rangers failed to clear a corner.

Controversy was to follow. James Sands received a second yellow card for taking out Simeone as the Napoli striker latched onto a superb Zielinski pass to stride towards goal. McGregor batted away Zielinski's penalty but Politano raced in to slot home the rebound from the tightest of angles. VAR determined McGregor had jumped off his line before the penalty was struck with encroachment by Napoli players presumably meaning the re-take. Zielinski tried again, striking the kick to McGregor's right for the second time; and with the same outcome. This time, no Napoli player was on hand to convert the loose ball. Ibrox breathed a sigh of relief, save the concern of facing the Serie A leaders for half an hour with only 10 men.

Respite was only prove brief for Rangers. Kvaratskhelia's shot was handled by Borna Barisic, with Zielinski taking the smart option of staying well clear of the third penalty of the evening. Instead, Politano buried the ball low to McGregor's left. Not that the goalkeeper was far away from saving that one as well.

Napoli instead added gloss to the scoreline via the substitute Giacomo Raspadori before Tanguy Ndombélé, on loan from Tottenham, scored their third goal.

Rangers have been reminded about the unforgiving nature of this Champions League environment. Napoli and the charismatic Luciano Spalletti march on.

Rangers	4-2-3-1
McGregor, Tavernier (Kamara 82), Goldson, Sands, Barisic, Jack (King 63), Lundström;	
Arfield (Matondo 73), Davis (Tillman 82), Kent; Morelos (Colak 72)	
Napoli	4-3-3
Meret; Di Lorenzo, Kim, Rahmani, Mário Rui (Olivera 77); Zambo Anguissa, Lobotka, Zielinski (Ndombélé 83); Politano (Zerbin 77); Simeone (Raspadori 77), Kvaratskhelia (Elmas 90)	

Referee Antonio Mateu Lahoz (Sp)

Group F

Celtic held amid fans' anti-monarchy protests

Shakhtar Donetsk 1

Mudryk 29

Celtic 1

Bondarenko 10og

Gavin McCafferty

Celtic failed to build on a dominant start to their Champions League contest against Shakhtar Donetsk as they were held to a draw in Poland.

Reo Hatate's run beyond the home defence led to Celtic taking an early lead but Mykhaylo Mudryk equalised against the run of play in the 29th minute. Off the pitch, anti-monarchy

banners and chants from travelling Celtic fans led to an on-air apology from BT Sport.

In the early stages of the game, a banner in the Celtic end was unfurled that read "Fuck the Crown" while another one said "Sorry for your loss Michael Fagan", a reference to the intruder who broke into the Queen's Buckingham Palace bedroom in 1982.

The away fans also chanted "If you hate the Royal Family, clap your hands" during the game in Warsaw. There was no minute's silence for the Queen following discussions between both clubs and Uefa, but players wore black armbands.

On the pitch, Celtic made a bright start as Matt O'Riley played in Kyogo Furuhashi in the opening minute but Shakhtar goalkeeper Anatoliy Trubin got a foot to the striker's shot to divert it wide. Greg Taylor's driven cross was deflected beyond the Japan forward and O'Riley had an effort saved before Celtic took the lead in the 10th minute.

Josip Juranovic's diagonal ball found Sead Haksabanovic, who was making his first start for the club. The winger fed Hatate's forward run and the midfielder's shot took a deflection off Artem Bondarenko and went in.

Celtic continued to cause Shakhtar numerous problems with their passing and movement but the Ukrainian side levelled out of the blue. A pass inside former Legia right-back Juranovic gave left-winger Mudryk a clear run at goal and he fired high into the net.

Despite many missed chances in the second half the Celtic manager Ange Postecoglou said: "The performance was excellent.

"Obviously the result was not reflective of that but I thought in the whole game the players gave everything and that's all I can ask for.

"We needed that second goal and we had good chances to get it. From my perspective I can't ask for more from them. We will get our rewards if we keep playing that kind of football and showing that sort of commitment." PA Media

Shakhtar Donetsk	4-1-4-1
Trubin; Lucas Taylor, Bondar, Matviienko, Konoplyat; Stepanenko; Shved (Petryak 61), Bondarenko (Durasek 74), Sudakov (Ocheretko 78), Mudryk; Zubkov (Traoré 61)	
Celtic	4-2-3-1
Hart; Juranovic, Carter-Vickers, Jenz, Taylor; McGregor, Hatake (Turnbull 68); Haksabanovic (Maeda ht), O'Reilly (Mooy 68), Jota (Abada 86); Furuhashi (Giakoumakis 68)	

Referee Glenn Nyberg (Swe) Attendance 20,697

Potter Blues

New era begins with frustration as Salzburg claim draw



Page 46 →

Mark Ramprakash

Inspirational Stokes has been the difference for England

Page 41 →

The Guardian
Thursday 15 September 2022



Sport

Premier League plans tributes as games return

Sean Ingle

Premier League clubs will play the national anthem and hold a minute's silence before all matches this weekend to pay tribute to Queen Elizabeth II. Managers have also been told to consider wearing suits and leading their teams out, and there will also be a minute's applause on 70 minutes to mark the length in years of the Queen's reign. Big screens and advertising boards around pitches will display tribute images rather than familiar messages.

Seven Premier League matches will be played tomorrow, Saturday and Sunday after last weekend's programme was controversially cancelled in the wake of the Queen's death.

Insiders claimed that football felt it was appropriate to have a weekend of mourning for the monarch, which included stopping all grassroots football, given the Queen was the patron of the Football Association and Prince William is its president. However the decision was widely criticised, especially given most other sports, including cricket and golf, went ahead last weekend.

The news was confirmed by the Premier League, which said: "All Premier League matches between Friday 16 and Sunday 18 September will provide an opportunity for the League, clubs and fans to come together to pay tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, honouring her extraordinary life and contribution to the nation and world.

A Premier League spokesman confirmed managers wearing suits "was a suggestion not a directive".

Last night, BT Sport was forced to apologise after Celtic fans unveiled anti-royal banners during their Champions League match against Shakhtar Donetsk. Following a pre-match meeting between Celtic, Shakhtar and Uefa, it was decided that there would be no moment of silence before kick-off in Poland.



▲ Big screens will display messages honouring Queen Elizabeth II



Match report
Andy Hunter
Page 44 →

MANCHESTER CITY
2

BORUSSIA DORTMUND
1

Stones 80,
Haaland 84

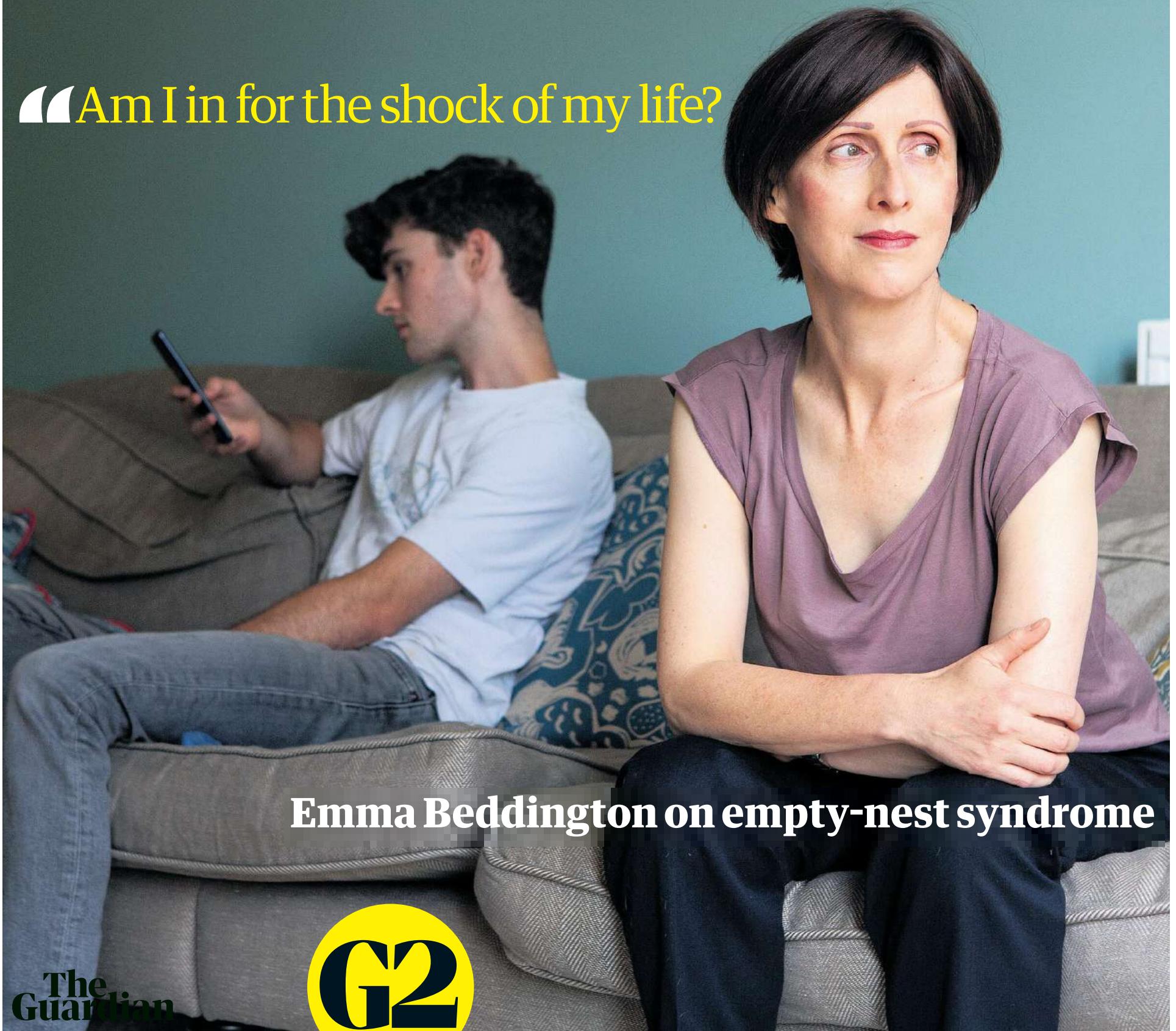
Bellingham 56

Haaland hits back

City stun Dortmund after Bellingham shock

▲ Erling Haaland is congratulated by his teammates after scoring City's late winner
MANCHESTER CITY FC/GETTY IMAGES

“Am I in for the shock of my life?



Emma Beddington on empty-nest syndrome

The
Guardian

G2

Thursday 15/09/22

Life & Arts

‘It’s sausage and mozzarella in batter!’
Why everyone loves a K-dog
page 4



‘He will forever be our guide’
Mike Leigh, Martin Scorsese and more on Jean-Luc Godard
page 8

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Adrian Chiles

The Queen's mourners have found the words I couldn't for Grandad

I modestly, I have long considered myself to be good with words, able to conjure up something funny, pithy or moving when called upon to do so. But I have never had a clue what to write on those little cards accompanying flowers for funerals. I was 20 when my grandad died. His was the first funeral of a close family member that I had attended. My mum gave me one of those little cards and a pen. I looked at her and at the blank card and burst into tears. I tried to write something, failed and cried some more. And then I did write something - "Love you Grandad," I believe - and this started me off again, because of course these were words that, while sincere, I had never said to him while he walked the earth. Mind you, if I ever had, I expect he would have looked at me quizzically, even alarmed. In retrospect, I wish I had gone for a bit of levity: "Up the Albion!", or something like that. Either way, it was simply horrifying to be writing the most heartfelt thing I had ever written, to somebody who would never read it. Thirty-five years on, I'm no closer to getting my head around this.

So if I hadn't had to go for work, I would have steered clear of the floral tribute to the Queen in London's Green Park. The last time I had seen such a thing was the acre of flowers outside Kensington Palace in the days after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. One message I read that day stuck with me. It said: "Rest in peace and God bless you, Diana." And then, apparently as an afterthought: "And Dodi." And as an afterthought to that: "And driver."

The Queen's tribute is beautifully done. The flowers are laid in low heaps - flowerbeds, of a sort - in pleasingly different

shapes. It's as if a crack team from the Chelsea flower show had been called in to arrange everything. As for the messages, while it felt intrusive, I read a few. If she would never read them, then at least the rest of us could. We may, after all, have been the intended audience.

Some kept it simple: "Thank you for everything. RIP. Carlo." Others said a little more: "Thank you for your service to the country and the Commonwealth. It has been a pleasure to serve you." Much has been made of the Queen's service to us, but here there were many references to us having served her. "We were honoured to be your servants," wrote someone. Having never been in the military, I had never thought of myself as having served her. Perhaps I have been doing so without noticing. My favourite, in a vibrant turquoise and defiantly unpunctuated, read: "To our queen you are the best queen in the world thank you for everything you have done for us you are the best Sky Sabrina and Freddie." One card was in a silver envelope, neatly addressed in an adult's hand to Queen Elizabeth II. The envelope was sealed. There was a purity about this; whatever was written was plainly not performative. For her eyes only, though she would neither open it nor read it, and neither, I assume, will anyone else.

Surveying all this was the historian Prof Kate Williams. She told me it was her hope that all these words and pictures would be collected and kept as priceless archive material. It didn't look as though this was the plan. The words and pictures were already wilting with the flowers, and soon it was raining. This analogue, pen-on-paper treasure trove, flowering briefly but wildly in this otherwise digital age, will soon be lost for ever.



Tributes to the Queen left at Balmoral



Carsickness blighted my childhood - but is it still a thing?

In order to free the dog from a tangle he had got himself into on the back seat, I stopped in a layby last weekend, on the A491 just off the M5. A strong memory stirred. Ah yes, I vomited here once.

I was a kid, in the back of my dad's car, on the regular drive from the West Midlands to our caravan in south Wales. I was always, but always, car sick. On a good day, I'd make it well into Wales, even surviving the then tortuous Heads of the Valleys road but, one way or another, before journey's end, there would be an incident. A wail from me, a curse from Dad, a screech of brakes, a leap from Mum out of the front seat to open the back door for me to stagger out and heave. The whole operation was as slick as a Formula One pit stop. The A491 layby puke stuck in my mind because it was my quickest ever on that journey; we were barely five minutes into it. "Not already, surely," moaned my dad. Oh yes. Curse, screech, door, heave and we were on the road again. It was good to get it out of the way early doors, I suppose we thought.

Whatever happened to car sickness? Is it still a thing? A doctor tells me that the meds are a lot more effective now. Kids these days don't know they're born. The tablets I was given - Sea-Legs, I think they were called - weren't much help. All in all, the whole business blighted my childhood. It got to the stage where the mere smell of my dad's Volvo was enough to turn my stomach.

My poor parents. One time we couldn't safely stop, and all my mum had to hand was a paper bag. She got it to me just in time. We had two seconds to breathe sighs of relief before the sodden bottom of the bag gave way, depositing its cargo all over my lap. Where were you when Elvis died? I know where I was. I was bent double on a grass verge in the car park at Strensham services with my mum holding my forehead. Oh, the memories.



Pass notes



№ 4,460

The moon

Age: Yet to be born. But it could happen in as little as five years.

Er, it was there last time I looked. And I thought it formed about 4.5bn years ago. Ah, that'll be the actual moon you're talking about.

And what are we talking about here? A giant replica moon.

How giant? 200 metres across.

Where? Dubai.

It's one giant leap for Mansour bin Zayed al-Nahyan ... Stop it! It's a proposal for a \$5bn project from a Canadian firm to build a massive moon-shaped hotel in the popular UAE destination.

Sounds very vulgar. Hello? This is Dubai. They've already done those palm tree islands, and then the ones in the shapes of the countries of the world, and the tallest building in the world ... I guess the moon is the logical next step.

Is it for Moonies? No. Nor should you moon at it; you might go to jail.

Will it be made of cheese? No. Michael Henderson, one of the entrepreneurs behind the project, told Dubai's Khaleej Times that the facade of the moon structure would be made of carbon fibre, and would replicate the surface of the moon and its craters.

So what's inside? The usual: a wellness spa, a nightclub, 4,000 "luxury resort suites", including - take note, Premier League footballers - 300 boutique private residences that will be available to buy.

Any lunar stuff? Of course. There will be loads of space-themed attractions, such as hop-on hop-off rover taxis and spacewalks. The resort's signature attraction "will enable guests to experience walking on the lunar surface while exploring a vast working lunar colony," said Henderson.

Cool - how will that work? He didn't go into too much detail, because of third-party agreements, but he did say: "The astronaut suit you will be wearing on the moon's lunar surface will provide you with a certain percentage of gravity reduction."

No way. How's that even possible, outside of sci-fi? Who knows? Anything's possible in Dubai, isn't it? Anyway, they reckon it will attract 10 million visitors a year. Compare that with the 12 people - all white men, obvs - who have set foot on the boring old actual moon.

Has it got the go-ahead then? Ten, nine, eight, seven ... Nothing official yet, but Moon World Resorts Inc has plans for four moons in total, across the globe, including Las Vegas.

Do say: "Fly me to the moon / Let me play among the stars."

Don't say: "Hang on, won't there be actual space tourism by then? Think I'll wait, save up, and go to Mars with Elon."



Never mind K-pop, here's the K-dog

Sausage, cheese, batter, ketchup and Rice Krispies ... what's not to like?

Clare Finney tracks the amazing rise of the Korean hotdog

If you'd told me two years back, when I first started selling Korean hotdogs, that I'd be interviewed by the Guardian, I'd be like: 'No way,'" exclaims Mari Riaz, the founder and owner of Uh K-dogs 'n' Juicy in Camden market, London. And yet here we are, in the calm before the lunchtime rush, discussing the street-food trend she helped kickstart from her home kitchen in 2020, and which is now sweeping the UK.

At this point, I've yet to have one. I've seen them at street-food markets and on social media, and I've even heard the shattering

crunch of the crisp batter as devourers bite in - yet the texture and flavour of the Korean hotdog remains a mystery to me. I can imagine, though, from what I know of their contents: stringy mozzarella, a hotdog sausage, coated in a dough that may or may not be embellished with cereal or noodles, layered on to a stick, deep-fried and finished with stripes of ketchup, mayonnaise, mustard or sweet chilli sauce.

The similarities to the American corndog are plain, and indeed Korean hotdogs are a direct descendant: created in 1980s Korea as an easy street food that could make a small, cheap bit of meat go further. "Hotdogs, alongside other tinned and processed meats, were first introduced to the peninsula during the Korean war as part of army rations," says Judy Joo, an American-Korean chef,

restaurateur and cookbook author based in London. "It is thought that someone saw the quintessential American fairground food, corndogs, and adapted it."

Cornmeal was replaced with wheat flour, and as demand grew, so did the hotdogs. "The pieces became bigger and the fillings changed, incorporating cheese and fishcakes," says Joo. More noticeably, street-food vendors got increasingly creative with the coatings, covering them with everything from bits of french fries to dried ramen noodles, potato - even Rice Krispies or Cheetos.

In Koreatown, Los Angeles, where Joo grew up, Korean hotdogs were an after-school treat. "I remember snacking on them greedily, pulling the cheesy insides out and wrapping the gooey cheese around my finger." The "cheese pull" of the K-dog is an extraordinary thing: a long string of melted cheese that stretches endlessly with each bite, to the point where you start contemplating scissors.

"I remember the first day we opened in Camden market, and people didn't have a clue what we were selling; then a customer bought one out of curiosity, and it was the massive cheese pull from

that first bite that then attracted loads of people," recalls Riaz.

In the UK, Korean hotdogs are still relatively new on the scene, brought over via the US off the back of K-drama, K-pop, K-beauty and so on. "I think the popularity of Korean culture, the *hallyu* wave, is fuelling the appetite for Korean food," says Joo - just as in South Korea, young people's fascination with American culture drove the demand for Korean hotdogs in the first place. As the Korean chef Linda Lee, owner of On the Bab and Koba in London, puts it: "The origins are American, but as a street-food dish they are so entwined with Korean culture that the line is blurred."

Lee doesn't serve K-dogs, but she feels their success is indicative of the growing interest in all kinds of Korean cuisine - and that can only be positive. "I am certain everyone will find something new to try. At On the Bab we have a stew called *budae jjigae* which contains sausages, ham, noodles and a slice of burger cheese, so that's a different type of Korean dish with American flavours."

When setting up in the UK, Riaz was conscious that the traditional K-dog, which incorporates sugar into the batter, might be too sweet for the British palate. In addition,

many of her customers were Muslim, so the pork in the sausage meat was not suitable. As a result, she adapted the dish further, replacing the pork sausages with turkey or vegetarian ones, and removing the sugar from the batter.

"A lot of people love the traditional version, but even for me, it's like a doughnut filled with sausage and cheese," she says. "The majority of our customers prefer our version because it's less sweet."

"Throughout history you see people taking inspiration from other cuisines and making it their own. It's evolution," says the food influencer and financier Kar-Shing



Happy customers

Tong, better known by his social media handle KS Ate Here. For 14 years Tong has been sharing and snapping street-food trends in London. He's not surprised by the Korean hotdog's success, nor that it has made its way across the Atlantic. "Korea has had a big American culture for a while. Then food trends from Asia usually come here via the States. It's the natural progression after they're popularised there: all things American see London as the new playground," he adds. From London, it is but a hop, skip and a jump to the rest of the UK.

Purveyors of K-dogs have been popping up on streets and in street-food markets in Manchester, Glasgow, Newcastle and more - and no wonder, says Tong: "It's sausage and mozzarella in batter. Who's not going to eat that?"

Where cultural differences might limit the appeal of some culinary imports from Asia, he says, "with the Korean hotdog there is nothing that can go wrong". It is the perfect street food - and the perfect festival food, says Riaz, being quick, filling and, crucially, drink-friendly: "I always say the definitive festival food is the one you can hold in one hand while holding a pint in the other."

K-dogs are catnip for social media: "There's the massive cheese pull, the colourful sauces on top, and the crunchy sound makes them very popular for *mukbang* [videos of people eating food, which amass huge followings on TikTok and Instagram]." To Riaz's mind this is the main reason K-dogs have blown up of late, despite having been around for about three decades.

"I am a huge fan of ASMR [autonomous sensory meridian response - in other words, a pleasing tingling sensation], which you experience when you can very clearly hear the sounds of people eating food on *mukbang*. K-dogs became famous through those videos. That is how western culture was introduced to them," she says, and it's what gave her the confidence to introduce Uh K-dogs 'n' Juicy to Camden. But they weren't designed for social media, says Tong. "They're not just about the 'wow' visual factor. They're a completely viable, edible thing: filling and borderline excessive, but probably no worse for you than a battered sausage from your local fish and chip shop."

They are also - and here, my snobbery initially got the better of me - just good fun. Sure, they are sugar, fat and processed meat, deep-fried, but no one is suggesting you demolish a K-dog a day. When I pick one up from the growing London chain Bunsik for lunch, I am pleasantly surprised.

The cheese is stringy and creamy, the meat discernibly meat, the batter as crunchy as I'd been led to believe. But it was the fun I was most struck by: the childish joy of wandering through Soho with my lunch on a lollipop stick, winding cheese around my fingers, a smile and sweet chilli sauce around my mouth.

PHOTOGRAPH: CHRISTIAN SINIBALDI/THE GUARDIAN



See the sights in Bury Park!

When **Sarfraz Manzoor** was asked to lead a tour of Luton's Muslim district, it seemed a good chance to build community trust. But painful memories kept coming back ...

It's a sunny Sunday afternoon and I am in Bury Park, the predominantly Asian district of Luton. I grew up here and often return to see my family, but today I am with 20 strangers who have signed up to walk with me through my home town.

The walk is part of Heritage Open Days, supported by the local council, and the broad aim is to share the history of Bury Park with the wider community. I was asked to lead the walk, which begins outside the central mosque, because I had written a memoir of growing up in Luton - called *Greetings from Bury Park* - which was later adapted into the feature film *Blinded By the Light*.

The last time I had visited the mosque was four years ago when I had taken Gurinder Chadha, the director of the film, on a tour of Luton as she scouted filming locations. I remember saying to Chadha that my dream was that I would do for Bury Park what Richard Curtis had done for Notting Hill. It was a joke, of course. I remember us both laughing at how unlikely the prospect was of outsiders - a polite way of saying white people - choosing to visit Bury Park. Yet it happened. The first walk is soon fully booked and there is already talk of repeating it.

The group is, save for one person, entirely white. They are local to Luton but Bury Park remains largely unfamiliar. I start with a few memories - of growing up on a terraced street minutes

away from the mosque and of attending Eid prayers with my late father. I tell them about the protests from the far right when the mosque opened, and my shock when racists stuck a pig's head on the minaret - an event that I included in the screenplay for the film. We walk into the prayer hall and the group look around; for many, it was the first time they had stepped inside a mosque. "I can feel the spirituality," says one man. "It feels a little like being in a church."

We walk along Dunstable Road. I point out the jewellers my late father would visit to buy single gold bangles for my mother. Luton Town's football ground sits nearby and I am asked if I attended any matches. I explain how, during the 80s, I did not dare venture into Bury Park on Saturday afternoons for fear of the football fans who would abuse and attack any Asian shops and people they encountered. The area continues to attract the far right - both the EDL and Britain First have marched through the town in the hope of exploiting its reputation as a

hotbed for Islamist extremism. In fact, as a stroll through the district shows, it is mostly a hotbed for shopping and eating. We stop at an Asian sweet shop for pakoras.

It is telling that, during the time I have spent with the group, I don't think I have seen a single other white person on the streets. I ask the group why more white people don't come to Bury Park. The traffic is cited as an explanation by more than one person. "For a lot of people in Luton, Bury Park is an alien world," a man says. "People feel it has nothing to do with them."

We carry on walking, more stories and memories tumble out, and I find myself getting unexpectedly emotional as old ghosts are summoned. I see myself as a little boy walking alone to school and coming face to face with a white man, or perhaps it was just an older boy, who chose to spit in my face as he walked past. I see my late father warning me to stay away from white people because they have different values and an alien culture to us. I remember feeling no one would want to hear my voice. I am reminded that you can dream of escaping your home town but its streets and traumas never fully leave you.

The walk ends and a woman asks how I would tackle the mistrust between Muslims and non-Muslims. I tell her that empathy can help build a bridge towards better understanding. A cultural tour of Luton sounded like a joke four years ago, but today I am not so sure. A stroll through Bury Park might not be the complete solution towards better relations between Muslims and non-Muslims - but it is a first step.

Sarfraz Manzoor is the author of They: What Muslims and Non-Muslims Get Wrong About Each Other, out in paperback this month



I told them about the time racists stuck a pig's head on the mosque

'It struck me like a thunderbolt'

For many parents, children leaving home is like a bereavement. Why is it so hard, asks **Emma Beddington**, and what's the best way to survive it?

Signs of seasonal migration are everywhere in the university town where I live: double-parked cars, warning lights flashing, occupants emptying jam-packed boots; bright flocks of Ikea bags, plump with pillows, extension leads trailing. Later in the day there's another migratory wave: pink-eyed parents, heading back to empty homes with quiet kitchens and unmolested fridges.

This weekend I'll be joining the migration. My son just messaged me (yes, from a few feet away) to say he has booked a moving-in slot at his hall of residence on the other side of the country. It will be my second - and last - time dropping a kid at university; his brother started last year. It's an event both utterly ordinary and so emotionally freighted it has become a cultural moment, anxiously anticipated and amplified by celebrity interventions. Rob Lowe, Heidi Klum and Ulrika Jonsson have all described their pain. Ruth Langsford of *This Morning* recently told *Women & Home* magazine that after her son left, "for the next three days I felt like I'd had my womb ripped out ... I was sitting on his bed, sniffing his pillow". (Being left alone with Eamonn Holmes might drive many of us to something similar.) Gordon Ramsay confessed to being so bereft, he wore his son's pants - I'm truly sorry for sharing that.

I'm not dreading it: this move feels like a happy event. It's not that I'm desperate to get rid of my boy; he's a laconic, low-key presence, cat-like in his discretion around the house, with a sharp wit. It has been delightful to watch this person

emerge from the intense toddler whose rages I shut myself in the bathroom to avoid. But as a relatively young mother, temperamentally unsuited to the slow hours and fast years of childrearing, I have always been impatient for the next milestone. I have a sense of celebration as both my boys progress towards adulthood: I want to see who they become. And after their Covid-stunted, Gavin Williamson-blighted late teens, I'm especially excited for them to escape the stultifying cocoon of home.

I'm also excited for me, and for us. I haven't spent more than a week alone with my husband for 20 years and I'm curious how we'll cope. Back then, we wore suits to work, rode a Vespa and had a fatal penchant for relationship drama, conjuring fights out of thin air. We've mainly bottled all that up for two decades. Will we fall back into old bad habits? (I hope not: my back can't cope with sulk-sleeping in the bath now.) What will we talk about? Will we ever eat at a table again? Who will we become?

Current indications suggest I'll become a sexless shut-in hobbit, shouting into hedges about biodiversity, pockets full of worms for an expanding menagerie of rescued birds. Bafflingly, my husband recently bid on a pottery kiln "in case I ever want to make an ashtray", despite never expressing an interest in ceramics, or smoking. I asked him how he was feeling about our emptying nest, in an attempt to forge some emotional glasnost. "Is this for work?" he said suspiciously, then claimed he didn't know yet, while continuing to barbecue ceaselessly, in anticipation of the other household carnivore leaving. He even asked me to "probe his meat", without the slightest erotic overture. I feel we're both ready to sink into shambolic eccentricity.

But are we in for the shock of our

lives? Dating coach and single parent Kate Mansfield's son left home in February. They had a loving but fraught relationship through years of home schooling and Covid lockdowns; her sociable son filled the house with gangs of mates who emptied her fridge in the small hours. "I had slightly resigned myself to thinking he would be here until he was in his 40s, then he suddenly said: 'I've found a flat and I'm moving out next week.' I had had a sort of long-running fantasy at the back of my mind that one day this would end - then it happened and I was devastated." Rae Radford, a social media influencer from Kent, had a similar experience. "I honestly thought I'd be thrilled to see the back of my ungrateful sons who treated my home like a hotel, but after dropping them off at university, the truth struck me like a thunderbolt."

Fiona Esom felt prepared when her son and daughter left - she was busy with her Fairtrade cocoa business Food Thoughts. "I thought all is as it should be; I was expecting this." Then her dog died. "I can laugh at it now," she says. "'When did you go downhill?' 'When the

dog died.' But he had bridged the gap with my mother's death, me leaving my marriage, bringing my children up. It was like everything was ending in one go. I wasn't prepared for the grief I felt."

It's not just women (though interestingly, men are more anxious to be anonymous). It hit Ben (not his real name) as he drove his youngest son from Ireland to the UK to study. "The day before I was fine. But as I was driving along, I realised I was driving my son away. I could barely speak to him; I was overcome." His emotion is palpable over the phone as we speak. "I still think he's in the house. I still think he'll come out of his room, then it hits me: no, he's gone." The house is quiet and empty. "It's like someone turned off the music," he says, breaking my heart a bit.

Why does this "predictable event in the family life cycle", as family therapist Dr Ged Smith calls it, ambush us? There's a good chance, Smith says, that a "perfect storm of crises" phenomenon is at play. "It will coincide with other things - you'll probably be at an age when you're also questioning your relationship, your job, your career - your life, really. Thinking: 'What now? Is this it? Is this the job I want? Is this the person I want to stay with?'

Certainly a profoundly shaken sense of identity comes back again and again as you speak to empty-nesters. "It was the end of what you've put all your energies into, and you know you've done a good job, but you have to face up to: 'Well, who am I? What am I? What am I for?'" says Esom. "You were a parent your whole life, you had this job and this focus. It's a huge part of your life, and personally I loved it - it wasn't a burden," says Ben. "What do I do now? What am I doing this for?"

"I couldn't place myself any more," says Michelle Lancaster,

a graphic designer and illustrator whose two daughters left almost simultaneously. "I didn't know who I was or who I should be."

Part of learning who we are now is recalibrating relationships with our absent kids after years of in-person parenting. That course correction can be painful. A friend whose daughter has struggled with an eating disorder is terrified how she'll cope with relapses. Another parent says: "This is a child who can't pick up his pants ... And of course, he's going to be stoned within the first week."

Ben fears his son will find his chosen career mercilessly competitive. "I think he's going to realise how hard it is." He also wishes he had taught his son how to wire a plug. "Why didn't I do that?" For me, the knowledge I hated university (I was lonely, sad, often desperate), but didn't breathe a word to my parents, hangs over me as I wonder if I should follow up an unanswered WhatsApp message.

It's important, Smith says, to "establish healthy contact with them". He suggests talking about it directly. "Perhaps like: 'I'm going to miss you when you go, but I'll be OK. How much contact would you like me to have with you?'" He's reluctant to give advice, but gets emphatic on this: "Don't make your child worry about you. Don't say to your child: 'You know, since you've left, I've been very depressed; me and your father fight all the time.' Don't do that - even if it's true!"

While he's on an advice roll, I slip in a question about my chief fear: that it's too late and our relationships are locked in now. Esom says she knew she had done a good job; I'm not so sure and the mistakes I made now feel irreparable. Did my concern to give my sons space and privacy feel like a lack of love? Will they only remember



Emma Beddington with her family in younger days; (main pic) with her second son, who is about to leave home

Indications suggest I'll become a shut-in hobbit shouting into hedges



that time I smashed a bottle in a rage? You know, the usual 4am thoughts. Smith's own relationship with his four kids is, he reassures me, "constantly evolving"; he suggests solo breaks with my boys over the next few years might help. It won't stop the 4am self-flagellation, but it gives me something practical to plan.

What about your relationship with your partner, if you have one? "Check the statistics on divorces," someone advises me, darkly. "You'll look at the bloke you've made these kids with and go: 'You're just an arsehole - why have I stuck with you for so long?'" I do check the figures: "silver splitters" are a growing phenomenon, according to the Office for National Statistics. And what if you react very differently to this new phase: one bereft, the other excited? "Pay attention to each other's difference," advises Smith. "Make an effort to understand; don't just argue with them or try to convert them to your way of thinking."

At the risk of tempting fate, I'm hopeful. My husband's cheery dynamism is a good foil to my solitary, joyless tendencies. His salad-making is an affront to God (cheese rind everywhere; tinned corn; aggressive quantities of vinegar) and he falls asleep on the sofa at 8pm like clockwork, but I can't imagine sharing a threadbare nest with anyone else. When our sons went away recently, he joined me in a nature reserve hide to look at some distant ducks, even suggesting we could "come back early one morning with a Thermos of coffee". I've rarely heard anything so romantic.

For those struggling, it does get better. For Mansfield it was important to "allow myself to feel the feelings. I had a couple of weeks of crying and feeling sad and missing him." Focusing on the positives helped ("I can have cheese and wine for my dinner every night"). After all, living with teenagers is famously not a "good vibes only" experience. "They just become arseholes, don't they - there's no way around it," says Radford. But then the cooking, laundry, mess and drama all stop, which is the definition of a mixed blessing, I think. As Ben says: "Those things you hated about them, like being untidy, you realise all of that was kind of a privilege."

"It's a healthy thing, isn't it?" muses Smith. "A healthy family is one that prepares the children to grow up, become self-sufficient and leave. You should spend the whole of your kids' life preparing them for the very thing that's going to do your head in."

I'm reminded, too, that not every parent gets to experience an empty nest. Alice (not her real name) has a disabled son who will never be able to live independently. She grieved when her eldest daughter left home ("I cried at work; I kept putting out her place at dinner, then cried the day I didn't put her place out"), but also feels deep sadness that her son will not get that same experience. She

Rae Radford
(left) and
Michelle
Lancaster



and her husband didn't get the "empty-nest bonus" other parents get - taking off for the weekend on a whim. That is a disappointment."

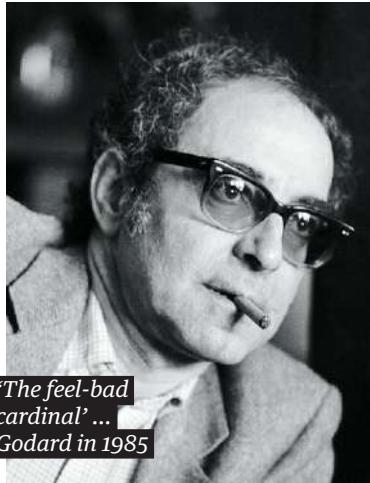
For us lucky ones, after the initial shock comes the great "What now?" That's where things get interesting. For Esom, it meant welcoming a Ukrainian single mother and daughter into her newly empty home for three months. "The children did point out the irony: 'Hey, Mum, you've just stopped having to care for us and now you're bringing in other people to care for!'" It was a valid observation. But it was, she says, "fabulous for all of us - delightful and interesting".

Mansfield let out her flat and took a solo road trip across the US, including a week of equine therapy and business meetings in Las Vegas. Radford moved to the coast, left her marriage and acquired four dogs ("one for each child"). Lancaster moved to the seaside, too, taking up surfing and dating. "I'm just taking myself for adventures, I'm putting a flask in my backpack, taking the dog and going off exploring. There are no compromises." Her girls are thrilled to see her happy. "They didn't want me to be sad and lonely. I'm actually having more of a high time than they are!"

Or how about this for an empty-nest curveball: one friend was "ready and excited" when her daughters left home, but soon afterwards got back together with a former partner who has a 13-year-old from another relationship. "Five more years of parenting before I can have that empty nest back!"

Learning to put yourself first again means working out who you are, and that throws up tough existential questions. The answers can be surprising, painful, exhilarating, even wonderful. "I've had an amazing life in comparison to what I had, because I was brave enough to put my big girl knickers on and think: 'I'm not putting up with this,'" says Radford. "Absolutely embrace it," urges Lancaster. "Because it does get better - I'm the happiest I've ever been." We're starting our empty-nest life by leaving it: we've booked a trip to Italy, and I'm not packing my sons' pants.

'Godard shattered cinema'



'The feel-bad cardinal' ...
Godard in 1985

He was the firebrand director who changed film for all time. Martin Scorsese, Mike Leigh, Abel Ferrara and other directing giants pay tribute to Jean-Luc Godard

Pure anarchic bliss'

Mike Leigh

The passing of Jean-Luc Godard leaves me pining with deep sadness, despite my reservations - shared by many - about the director's later eccentricities. It was 1960 and *Breathless* exploded on to the screen at the precise moment I arrived in London, a film-obsessed 17-year-old from Salford, who had never seen a movie that wasn't in English. Godard's debut masterpiece did indeed leave one breathless. Free-spirited location filming, spontaneous believable acting, wayward unconnected quirky moments ... here was a feast of challenges to one's ideas about cinema: pure anarchic bliss!

Of course, there were multiple cinema discoveries, Truffaut not least. I probably feel closer to *The 400 Blows* and *Jules et Jim* than to anything by Godard. But it was Godard who dominated the film narrative of the decade. He delivered a new piece every year, and I and my cinephile comrades embraced them all hungrily, never failing to argue late into the night about each new offering.

My favourites: *Vivre Sa Vie*, *Les Carabiniers*, *Bande à Part* and *Two or Three Things I Know About Her*. And a soft spot for *Weekend*.



Michel Piccoli and Brigitte Bardot in *Contempt*

His movies feel more necessary and more alive than ever'

Martin Scorsese

From *Breathless* on, Godard redefined the very idea of what a movie was and where it could go. No one was as daring as Godard. You'd watch *Vivre Sa Vie* or *Contempt* or *Made in USA* and you had the impression that he was actually taking apart his own movie and rebuilding it before your eyes. You never knew what to expect from moment to moment, even from frame to frame - that's how deep his engagement with cinema went.

He never made a picture that settled into any one rhythm or mood or point of view, and his films never lulled you into a dream state. They woke you up. They still do -

and they always will. It's difficult to think that he's gone. But if any artist can be said to have left traces of his own presence in his art, it's Godard. And I must say, when so many people have gotten used to seeing themselves defined as passive consumers, his movies feel more necessary and alive than ever.

Cinema was his Rubik's Cube'

Paul Schrader

In cinema, there was before Godard and after Godard. For 15 years, he disassembled cinema, reassembled it, disassembled it until it became his personal Rubik's Cube. Godard and Dylan are the quizzical lodestars of their generation. Godard was a trickmaster of quotes, so he'll appreciate what Tanya, played by Marlene Dietrich

in *Touch of Evil*, says about Hank Quinlan: "He was some kind of man. What does it matter what you say about people?"

His film about a strike at a sausage factory blew my mind'

Carol Morley

The first time I saw a Godard film was during an evening A-level film studies class. Bev Zalcock, our teacher, showed us *Tout Va Bien* which revolved around a strike at a sausage factory. My mind was blown. What was this film? How could it exist? When asked how it differed from other films we'd seen, it was difficult to find the words - we were all affected by it in ways we couldn't yet articulate. But I have a very clear memory of one student saying that a big difference for her

was the subtitles were higher up than in other foreign films.

But as Bev guided the discussion, it became clear that Godard, in collaboration with Jean-Pierre Gorin, was challenging the spectator in every frame: this was political, radical, revolutionary cinema. And it starred Jane Fonda - someone we'd all heard of! Later, when I became a film-maker, I made a short called *I'm Not Here*, in which I have a sequence inspired by *Tout Va Bien*: a long and repeated tracking shot in a supermarket.

On hearing of Godard's death, I reached for a book, *Godard on Godard*, and opened it to something I had read years ago: "I make my films not only when I'm shooting but as I dream, eat, read, talk to you." He helped me understand that making films would occupy my every breath.

The crowd was screaming'

Luca Guadagnino

The sublime power of the name Jean-Luc Godard, or I should say of the forever legendary acronym JLG, came into my consciousness when I was 14. It was 1985 and in the dark and oppressed Palermo of my teenage years I bumped into a wildly raging group of people screaming in front of a theatre where *Hail Mary* was on.

How, I wondered, could a movie create such a violent reaction? Then I saw it, and through its luminous terse beauty I completely learned the power of ideas. Godard was a shining light that showed us the way, movie after movie, idea after idea. We are more lonely today and yet his astonishing cinema will forever be our guide.

He was the feel-bad cardinal who shattered complacency'

Mark Cousins

He was the feel-bad cardinal. The fire and brimstone preacher. I saw *Weekend* first and felt assaulted, exalted. He forced us on to moral high ground, disdained entertainment and lyricism. But then I saw *Vivre Sa Vie*, which was flooded with feeling, and *Two or Three Things I Know About Her*. His films centred on women were better, more forgiving, for me. The eroticism of *Hail Mary* was conflicted. For him, cinema was never just a pleasure dome.

His layering of voiceover, text and visual montage was often too much for my brain, though. He and Anne-Marie Miéville outran most other film-makers. They lapped them in the movie marathon.

His legacy? He shattered complacent cinema like a hammer on glass. I went to Rolle in Switzerland recently, hoping that I might bump into him or see him out walking with his dog. I brought my camera along, but how would you film that?

'He was so prolific. There's a deep well for us all to drink from'

Kelly Reichardt

I know what Dave Hickey means when he says there's how the world looked before Andy Warhol and how it looked after. Isn't it the same with Godard? There's the way films look before him and the way they look after. He was so prolific and lived so long. There's a deep well for us all to keep drinking from.

'He spawned Tarantino - but his later films are a chore'

Kevin Macdonald

Godard changed cinema. He made it self-conscious as no one had before: you always knew you were watching a film, like a Brecht for the movies. You are always aware of the process and underpinnings - and his influences (American gangster movies early on, Vertov and Russian constructivists later). Breathless, Bande à Part, Une Femme est une Femme: all brilliant, cool, iconoclastic films that were really about movie-making. He's not really interested in story, or people. He's interested in influences and ideas. He started a critic and remained one all his life.

But it's not too much to say that Godard spawned Richard Lester, Tarantino, Soderbergh, Céline Sciamma - in other words, nearly all of modern cinema. Those early films still have a daring that takes my breath away. But the later films are mostly a chore: highly political, highly confrontational - even if sometimes formally inventive. He adored to *épater la bourgeoisie*. That means I must be bourgeoisie, because those films *épaté* me. But I did love his Rolling Stones documentary One Plus One, which pitted the vacuity of the band rehearsing against scenes of radical street politics. It says more about rock music and its role in society than any other film of the era - perhaps with the exception of Gimme Shelter.

I once worked with Caroline Champetier, a director of photography who was a Godard regular. I hung on her every word about "the master". I was struck by her stories about filming in Russia on a conceptual version of Anna Karenina, shot among the crumbling post-Soviet railway

stations of Moscow. The thing is: Godard didn't go with her. He directed from Paris by phone. Somehow that summed him up for me: outrageously bold, very cool - but maybe lacking the human touch.

'I devoured directors but I never moved on from him'

Abel Ferrara

I am sitting in a taxi cab and the radio is playing Satisfaction by the Stones and the woman announcer is saying: "Soixante-cinque, 1965." Jean-Luc was really rolling then. I started making films in 1967, when I was 16, and soon discovered they actually made movies outside of Hollywood. I used to devour one great director at a time, watch the lot, then move on - but I never moved on from him.

I grew up thinking, after the death of the Kennedys, Martin Luther King and Malcolm X, that the next batch would come along soon but they never did. No one ever followed him. Except for Pasolini, no one came close. I would sit as a baby film-maker and even the poetry of the titles would blow my mind: My Life to Live, One Plus One, A Woman Is a Woman, Alphaville and my favourite, All the Boys Are Called Patrick. A sad day.

'He talked cinema better than he made it'

John Boorman

His early films were vivid and romantic, swept along by the French New Wave. Later, his films became intellectual and obscure. When he had a film in Cannes, his press conference was always a great event and packed out. He was at his best when talking films rather than making them but he was a great innovator and stretched the art of film to its limits and beyond.

'His passion towers above us'

Terence Davies

As Proust and Joyce are to the novel, so Godard is to cinema. His fierce passion towers above us. It is hard to say goodbye when an *révoir* would be more comforting. I didn't know him personally but he gave me a compliment once that I treasure. So, ladies and gentlemen, hats off and stand for the passing of a genius.

Jean Seberg
and Jean-Paul
Belmondo in
Breathless



Max Reeves

'This was taken during the 2011 riots. I've no idea why he made his speech holding a rocking horse, but that broken toy symbolised everything else that was broken'



About 15 years ago, I set up a club with some friends called the Wetherspoons Underground SykoGeosofy Club devoted to exploring and researching hidden aspects of London. One day in August 2011, I was on the bus back from one of our walks, during which we'd been following the path of the underground River Effra, and as we passed through Brixton I became aware of a commotion.

That was my first inkling of the riots that had started to kick off in response to Mark Duggan being killed by police. I think it may have been the next day that I wandered up to Hackney, where the Carhartt shop was being looted and things were being set on fire. I remember standing around with a crowd waiting to see if a burning car outside the store was going to blow up.

Drifting northward, I found what seemed to be a frontline, with the police on the south side of Clarence Road and the north occupied by rioters and locals. As I navigated the sidestreets I was approached by a guy who said: "You'd better put your cameras away - you're going to get hit if you take them in there." So I stuck them in my bag apart from my little Powershot, and wandered around "the mob" for a bit before crossing back to where all the police were, along with the press pack.

The man with the scarf over his face was some kind of anarchist activist, I think. He walked into the road, past a bunch of skips and bins that rioters had been dragging over and setting alight. The broken rocking horse was lying in front of one of the bins and he picked it up as he approached. Then he delivered a long spiel: I can't remember for the life of me what he said, and I've no idea why he chose to make the speech while holding the horse. But it made for an arresting scene and, as the kid in the background ran diagonally across the frame, I took the picture. That shape behind him that looks like it could be a burning piano is actually a pushed-over wheelie bin.

I've always been interested in counterculture and the underground. I squatted throughout the early 1990s, having arrived in London from New Zealand a few

weeks after the Poll Tax riots, thus missing one of the biggest social protests of the period. The riots of 2011 seem to have been largely an emotional reaction against alienation and discrimination; a wide-reaching expression of class war. Those youths were perhaps trying to reclaim their community. For me, the broken toy kind of symbolised everything else that was broken.

The CV

Born: Papakura, New Zealand, 1966
Trained: Self-taught

Influences: 'Don McCullin, Robert Frank, Ezra Pound, William Blake.'

High point: Joining the Serious Road Trip in 1993 and travelling with them to troubled places to try to help people, particularly kids.'

Low point: 'The endless failures and self-sabotaging due to mental health.'

Top tip: 'Don't wash mushrooms in the washing machine.'



hobby horses. I perceive parallels between the subterranean rivers we were following on the day the rioting began, which have been culverted and driven underground, and these countercultural currents. Attempts to tame and control them are at best temporary as they continue to flow, sometimes bubbling to the surface, breaking their imposed barriers and demanding attention and autonomy. Interview by Chris Broughton



Jake Johnson
as Jake and
Ophelia Lovibond
as Joyce

Review *Minx*,
Paramount+

A radical feminist porn comedy with plenty of slapstick and tickle

★★★★★

Rebecca
Nicholson



After several prestigious but straight-faced 70s-set dramas, I have come to expect a more sombre tone from shows hovering around that era, but to my pleasant surprise, *Minx* is a total hoot. Ophelia Lovibond plays Joyce, an earnest liberal-arts college graduate attempting to get a radical feminist magazine off the ground in California in the early 1970s, where the ties are big, the collars are bigger, and the sideburns are truly outrageous.

Outrage plays its own part in *Minx*, whether it's the characters stoking the flames of controversy, or the show itself. For some mysterious reason, Joyce fails to find a backer for her furiously political magazine, *The Matriarchy Awakens*, despite telling the publishers of women's glossies that their diets-and-romance agenda is not the future. "Why is she so angry?" says one of a sea of businessmen. (The gender balance of the advertising and publishing industries here makes *Mad Men* look like a feminist utopia.)

Along comes the genial Doug (Jake Johnson), an earthy publisher of titillating mags with titles such as *B-Cup Babes* and *Bodacious Butts*. Doug likes Joyce's moxie, if not quite her buttoned-up approach, and his centrefold models have found the dummy issues of *The Matriarchy Awakens* gripping and thought-provoking. Doug has his own ideas about what the future looks like. He also thinks that women in 1971 are in the market for more than diets and romance. Much more, in fact. How about he funds a publication edited

by Joyce, in which she can wrap her political writing around a "magazine of knobs"?

My, are there knobs. What with Pam and Tommy imbuing Tommy Lee's penis with the power of speech, and Euphoria introducing a relative chorus line of cocks, this has been quite the year for full frontal male nudity, and in the end it's no surprise that a comedy about making a porn mag for straight women should have a healthy attitude towards what it shows, and what it doesn't. Thankfully, there's no, ahem, beating around the bush. It would have been odd if there had been.

Minx is brisk and bouncy and very enjoyable, with each 30-minute episode careering around with a pleasingly bulldozer-ish attitude towards comedy. Slapstick and tickle, if you will. Joyce has a stuffy boyfriend, quickly ditched, who represents the wealthy tennis club side of her life, while you sense that Doug and the rest of the team at Bottom Dollar Publications have had to pull their privileges together from nothing. The chemistry between Joyce and Doug is excellent, and Lovibond and Johnson, resplendent in their 70s gear, give the impression of having a great time with it all. It brings together a solid team, too, from Joyce's enthusiastic sister Shelly, to the sweet centrefold and "centrefold coordinator" Bambi, and secretary Tina, who gives the impression of being a woman who will, inevitably, end up running the world.

Doug is the most likable character, the wise svengali, present at every turn to let Joyce know which decisions she should make, and why. "I'm the only one who sees what you can do," he tells her. Without wishing to go too *The Matriarchy Awakens* about it, a lot of time in the opening two episodes is spent making sure that Joyce knows her place, which is funny, given how much time is also spent discussing dismantling the patriarchy. The show gets away with it, just about, because Joyce represents a certain kind of idealist, well-meaning but clueless to the real world, and you hope that in later episodes Doug has lessons to learn, too.

Some of the ideas are familiar. There's a sleazy old bore at the country club, those sexist businessmen, catcalling builders, an uptight ex-boyfriend who decries Joyce's new role as "the porn queen of Pasadena". It finds humour in Joyce's priggishness, as she tries to get her male models in the mood by reading them *Anais Nin*. And there are surreal streaks, too - a dream involving Gloria Steinem and rotten tomatoes, and talking ads on the wall, selling whiskey and "Yum-derwear", which are, Joyce contests, "an affront to all womankind".

But it's Lovibond and Johnson who lift the show and, along with its contagious sense of joy, make it very moreish indeed. It operates with broad brushstrokes, but sometimes it can be a relief to watch a series that is mostly just trying to be funny. "It comes across as shouty ... you gotta hide the medicine," Doug tells Joyce. I'm not sure *Minx* is hiding much, least of all its medicine, but I will happily devour what it has to offer.

My Grandparents' War: Kit Harington 9pm, Channel 4



Kit Harington's most iconic *Game of Thrones* episode might be *Battle of the Bastards* - but, as he finds out tonight, all four of his grandparents were real-life heroes in the second world war. Among the revelations that move and shock, Harington is captivated as he learns that two of them - Lavender and John - worked with the Secret Intelligence Service, serving alongside James Bond creator Ian Fleming and Russian double agent Kim Philby.

Hollie Richardson

Celebrity MasterChef 8.30pm, BBC One

With the final just around the corner, tonight's four celebrity semi-finalists must each create a "fantastical, theatrical, showstopping dish". They'll need to impress four pioneers of Italian cuisine in the UK: Francesco Mazzei, Jacob Kenedy, Masha Rener and Theo Randall. No pressure, then. **HR**

All That Glitters: Britain's Next Jewellery Star 9pm, BBC Two

"Have you ever heard of jewellery made from concrete?" Well, tonight is your lucky night - the contestants must make a brooch using contemporary materials, which also includes string - fabulous! They then create ear cuffs for an LGBTQ+ event. **HR**

All Creatures Great and Small 9pm, Channel 5

The hand-up-a-cow's-bum drama opens its new season with big changes for the vets. James and Helen are preparing for their honeymoon, but

there's still work to be done: treating an outbreak of tuberculosis among local cows, and a vomiting dog. Can big boss Siegfried give James a new focus with an offer he can't refuse? **Hannah Verdier**

Grand Designs 10pm, Channel 4

Kevin McCloud heads to Scotland tonight, where architect Iain and his wife Jenny plan to build a huge black minimalist house in the middle of a 19th-century country estate. Their vision takes an even grander turn with a gardener's bothy that is begging to be part of the renovation. **HR**

Late Night Mash 10pm, Dave

This witty topical comedy show has been consistently excellent, despite hopping channels and hosts. Now fronted by the lively Rachel Parris, it's hard to imagine it going off its game any time soon, given that we're living in an age when many news headlines already border on dark comedy. **Alexi Duggins**



Once again,
*Better Call
Saul* (starring
Bob Odenkirk,
above) was
robbed at the
Emmys

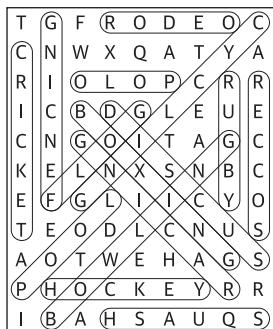
BBC One	BBC Two	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5	BBC Four
<p>6.0 Breakfast (T) 10.0 Animal Park (T) 10.45 The Farmers' Country Showdown (T) 11.15 Homes Under the Hammer (T) 12.15 Bargain Hunt (T) (R) 1.0 News (T) 1.30 Regional News and Weather (T) 1.45 Doctors (T) 2.15 Money for Nothing (T) (R) 3.0 Escape to the Country (T) 3.45 The Bidding Room (T) (R) 4.30 Antiques Road Trip (T) 5.15 Pointless (T) 6.0 News (T) 6.30 Regional News and Weather (T) 7.0 The One Show: Our Queen Remembered (T) 7.30 EastEnders (T)</p>	<p>6.45 Bargain Hunt (T) (R) 7.30 Antiques Road Trip (T) (R) 8.15 Sign Zone: Fake Or Fortune? (T) (R) 9.15 Coast (T) (R) 10.0 News (T) 1.0 Best Bakes Ever (T) (R) 1.45 News (T) 6.0 Richard Osman's House of Games (T) 6.30 Unbeatable (T) 7.0 Celebrity Antiques Road Trip (T) (R)</p>	<p>6.0 Good Morning Britain (T) 9.0 Lorraine (T) 10.0 This Morning (T) 12.30 Loose Women (T) 1.30 News (T) 1.55 Local News (T) 2.0 Dickinson's Real Deal (T) 3.0 Tenable (T) 4.0 Tipping Point (T) 5.0 The Chase (T) 6.0 Local News (T) 6.30 News (T) 7.30 Emmerdale (T)</p>	<p>6.10 Countdown (T) (R) 6.50 3rd Rock from the Sun (T) (R) 7.40 Everybody Loves Raymond (T) (R) 9.0 Frasier (T) (R) 10.30 Four in a Bed (T) (R) 11.0 The Great House Giveaway (T) (R) 12.0 News (T) 12.30 Steph's Packed Lunch (T) 2.10 Countdown (T) 3.0 A Place in the Sun (T) (R) 4.0 Chateau DIY (T) 5.0 Moneybags (T) 6.0 The Simpsons (T) (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks (T) (R) 7.0 News (T)</p>	<p>6.0 Milkshake! 9.15 Jeremy Vine (T) 12.45 Holiday Homes in the Sun (T) 1.40 News (T) 1.45 Home and Away (T) 2.15 Film My Killer Twin (Max McGuire, 2021) (T) 4.0 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun (T) (R) 5.0 News (T) 6.0 Cash in the Attic (T) 7.0 Costco: How Do They Really Do It? (T) (R) 7.55 News (T)</p>	<p>7.0 Takaya: Lone Wolf (T) (R) Documentary following seven years in the life of a lone wolf.</p>
<p>8.0 The Repair Shop (T) (R) The team try to restore family heirlooms and treasured possessions. 8.30 Celebrity MasterChef (T) The final four produce a fantastical theatrical showstopping dish. 9.30 Celebrity MasterChef (T) Well-known faces compete in the kitchen.</p>	<p>8.0 Saving Lives at Sea (T) The RNLI crew at Bundoran races to the rescue of teenage girl who has been swept out to sea by a rip-current. 9.0 All That Glitters: Britain's Next Jewellery Star (T) The jewellers have to make a best-selling brooch inspired by Birmingham's rich culture and heritage.</p>	<p>8.0 Emmerdale (T) The police show Kim definitive proof that Jamie is alive. 8.30 Emmerdale (T) Harriet informs an anxious Kim that they have not found Millie. 9.0 Coronation Street (T) As a nervous Toyah heads to court, Leanne begs her not to say something she will regret.</p>	<p>8.0 George Clarke's Old House, New Home (T) (R) George helps transform a terrace that needs to accommodate three generations of one family. 9.0 My Grandparents' War: Kit Harington (T) The actor digs into his grandparents' experiences during the second world war.</p>	<p>8.0 Secrets of Your Supermarket Shop (T) Angellica Bell tests kitchen gadgets. 9.0 All Creatures Great and Small (T) New series. Return of the drama, starring Nicholas Ralph and Samuel West. Three months have passed and it is now spring 1939, with big changes happening at Skeldale.</p>	<p>8.0 The Last Days of Anne Boleyn (T) (R) Hilary Mantel, Philippa Gregory and David Starkey determine why Henry VIII's second wife was executed in 1536. 9.0 Film The Elephant Man (David Lynch, 1980) (R) Fact-based drama, starring Anthony Hopkins and John Hurt.</p>
<p>10.0 News (T) 10.30 Regional News and Weather 10.40 Question Time (T) Fiona Bruce hosts the topical debate from Birmingham. 11.40 Newscast (T) A weekly round-up from Westminster, delivering the usual mix of serious analysis and light-hearted gossip. 12.10 Weather (T) 12.15 News (T)</p>	<p>10.0 TOTP 1987 (T) 10.30 Newshight (T) and Weather 11.15 Cricket: Women's T20 Highlights (T) 11.45 Days That Shook the BBC With David Dimbleby (T) (R) 12.45 Stolen: Catching the Art Thieves (T) (R) 1.45 Sign Zone: The Queen & I (T) (R) 2.45 The Longest Reign (T) (R) 3.45 This Is BBC Two (T)</p>	<p>10.0 News (T) 10.30 Local News (T) and Weather 10.45 Queen and Country (T) (R) A look at the Queen's love of rural life. 11.40 Bradley & Barney Walsh: Breaking Dad (T) (R) 12.10 Shop: Ideal World 3.0 Bling (T) (R) 3.50 Unwind With ITV (T) 5.05 Ainsley's Mediterranean Cookbook (R)</p>	<p>10.0 Grand Designs (T) (R) 11.05 Britain's Most Expensive Houses (T) (R) 12.10 First Dates Hotel 1.05 Finding the Cornish Dream 2.0 Film Village Rockstars (2017) Premiere. 3.30 The Queen: Mother and Monarch (R) 4.20 Perfect House, Secret Location (R) 5.15 The Great Home Transformation</p>	<p>10.0 Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Wild (T) (R) 11.05 Police: Night Shift 999 (R) 12.05 Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders (T) (R) 1.0 Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts (T) (R) 2.0 999: Critical Condition (T) (R) 3.0 Our Favourite Sweets (T) (R) 5.0 Wildlife SOS (T) (R) (T) 5.30 Peppa Pig (T) (R)</p>	<p>11.0 The Sky at Night (T) (R) Dr Jen Gupta talks about her favourite pictures of space. 11.30 Afghanistan: The Great Game - A Personal View By Rory Stewart (T) (R) First of two documentaries exploring the conflicts in Afghanistan. 12.30 Afghanistan: The Great Game (T) (R) 1.30 Takaya: Lone Wolf (R) 2.30 Mars (R)</p>

Other channels

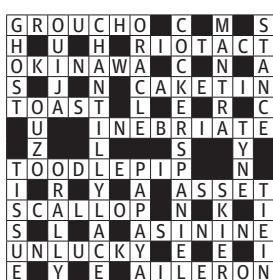
BBC Three	E4	ITV	Radio 3	Radio 4	Radio 4 Extra
<p>7.00 Top Gear 7.0 The Catch Up 8.0 MOTDx 8.30 Sky High Club: Scotland and Beyond 9.0 The Rap Game 10.05 People Just Do Nothing 11.35 This Is Amapiano 12.0 The Rap Game 1.05 MOTDx 1.35 Sky High Club: Scotland and Beyond 2.05 People Just Do Nothing 3.35 This Is Amapiano</p>	<p>6.00am Hollyoaks 7.0 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares 8.0 Black-ish 9.0 How I Met Your Mother 10.0 The Big Bang Theory 11.0 Young Sheldon 12.0 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 12.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 1.0 The Big Bang Theory 3.0 Young Sheldon 0.0 Married at First Sight UK 5.30 The Big Bang Theory 7.0 Hollyoaks 7.30 The Big Bang Theory 8.0 Below Deck: Mediterranean 9.0 Married at First Sight UK 10.0 Dirty House Rescue: Queens of Clean 11.05 Gogglebox 12.05 Married at First Sight UK 1.15 Rick and Morty 1.50 Tuca & Bertie 2.20 Dirty House Rescue: Queens of Clean 3.10 Below Deck 4.0 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 5.10 Baby Daddy</p>	<p>7.15 Film Johnny English Strikes Again (2018) Spy comedy. 9.0 Film Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade (1989) Action adventure. 11.35 Film Wind River (2017) Crime drama. 1.45 Film Moffie (2019) Premier. Romantic war drama.</p>	<p>10.0 Supergirl 11.0 NCIS: New Orleans 1.0 Hawaii Five-0 2.0 MacGyver 3.0 DC's Legends of Tomorrow 4.0 The Flash 5.0 Supergirl 6.0 Stargate SG-1 8.0 An Idiot Abroad 2.9 A League of Their Own 10.0 Cobra: Cyberwar 11.0 Rob & Romesh Vs Ballet 12.0 S.W.A.T. 1.0 Road Wars 2.0 Brit Cops: War on Crime 3.0 Hawaii Five-0 4.0 MacGyver 5.0 Highway Patrol 5</p>	<p>10.0 Hitchcock Presents 12.0 Film David Gilmour: Live at Pompeii (2017) 1.20 Robert Plant & the Sensational Space Shifters: Austin City Limits 2.35 Discovering Sci-Fi on Film 4.0 The Art of Architecture 5.0 Cheltenham Literature Festival</p>	<p>10.0 Supergirl 9.0 In Our Time 4.55 LW Daily Service 9.45 FM Book of the Week: A Visible Man (4/5) 10.0 Woman's Hour 11.0 Crossing Continents (3/10) 11.30 Once Upon a Time 12.0 News 12.01 LW Shipping Forecast 12.04 You and Yours 12.30 All Consuming (4/10) 12.57 Weather 1.0 The World at One 1.45 Reflections on Majesty: Howard Jacobson 2.0 The Archers 2.15 Murderation: Drama (R) 3.0 Ramblings (3/6) 3.27 Radio 4 Appeal (R) 3.30 Open Book: Ian McEwan (R) 4.0 The Curious Cases of Rutherford & Fry (5/6) 4.30 The Digital Human: Unintended (R) 5.00 5.54 LW Shipping Forecast 5.57 Weather 6.0 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Michael Spicer: Before Next Door (1/4) 7.30 Michael Spicer: Before Next Door (3/4) 8.0 The Small, Intricate Life of Gerald C Potter (4/6) 9.0 No Commitments (2/6) 9.0 The History of Brazil Is Round (5/9) 9.15 Betsy and Napoleon (5/5) 9.30 Trevor's World of Sport (3/6) 10.0 Devonia (2/3) 10.45 Short Works 11.0 Desert Island Discs 11.45 David Attenborough's Life Stories 12.0 The Small, Intricate Life of Gerald C Potter (4/6) 12.30 No Commitments (2/6) 1.0 Paul Temple and the Jonathan Mystery (2/8) 1.30 Agatha Raisin (4/6) 2.0 Paul Temple and the Jonathan Mystery (2/8) 2.30 Agatha Raisin (4/6) 3.45 Short Works 4.0 The History of Brazil Is Round (5/5) 4.15 Betsy and Napoleon (5/5) 4.30 Trevor's World of Sport (3/6) 5.0 To Hull and Back (1/4) 5.30 Michael Spicer: Before Next Door (3/4) 6.0 The Slide (2/7) 6.30 Great Lives (8/9) 7.0 The Small, Intricate Life of Gerald C Potter (4/6) 7.30 No Commitments (2/6) 8.0 Paul Temple and the Jonathan Mystery (2/8) 8.30 Agatha Raisin (4/6) 9.45 Desert Island Discs 9.45 David Attenborough's Life Stories 10.0 Michael Spicer: Before Next Door (3/4) 10.30 Craig Brown's Lost Diaries (4/6) 10.55 The Comedy Club Interview 11.0 The Consultants (6/6) 11.30 Weak at the Top (1/4) 12.0 The Slide (2/7) 12.30 Great Lives (8/9) 1.0 Paul Temple and the Jonathan Mystery (2/8) 1.30 Agatha Raisin (4/6) 2.0 Adventures of a Young Naturalist (4/5) 2.15 Eleanor Rising (4/5) 2.30 In Search of the Singing Postman 3.0 Devonia (2/3) 3.45 Short Works 4.0 The History of Brazil Is Round (5/5) 4.15 Betsy and Napoleon (5/5) 4.30 Trevor's World of Sport (3/6) 5.0 To Hull and Back (1/4) 5.30 Michael Spicer: Before Next Door (3/4)</p>
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Yesterday's
solutions

Wordsearch



Solution no 16,335

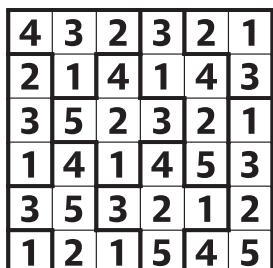


Sudoku no 5,785

6	5	3	1	2	4	7	8	9
8	9	4	3	6	7	5	1	2
1	7	2	9	5	8	4	6	3
7	4	9	5	8	2	1	3	6
5	6	1	4	9	3	2	7	8
2	3	8	6	7	1	9	4	5
4	8	5	7	3	9	6	2	1
3	1	6	2	4	5	8	9	7
9	2	7	8	1	6	3	5	4

Word wheel
EVACUATED

Suguru



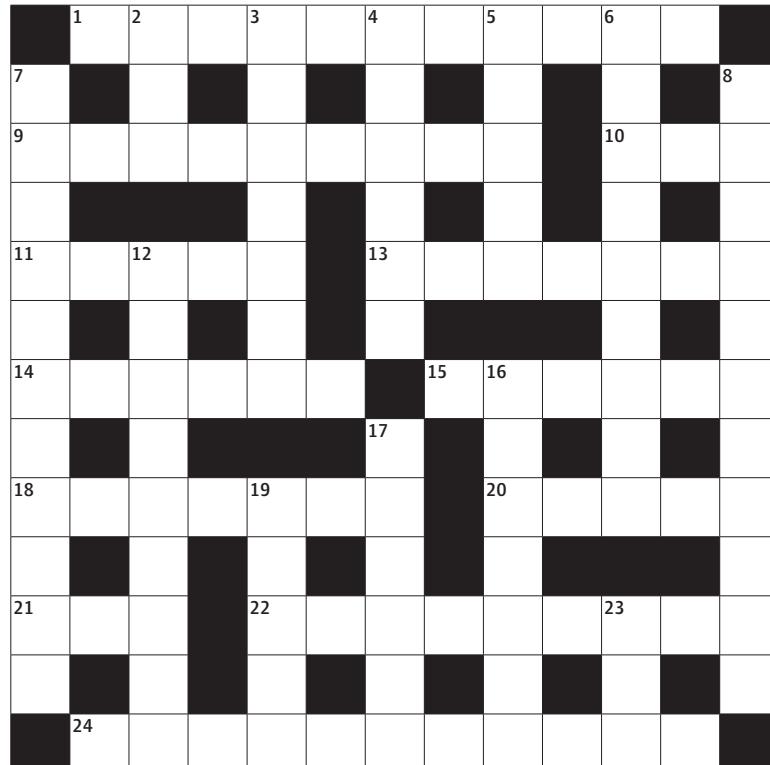
Quick crossword no 16,336

Across

- Science of numbers (11)
- Early name of the Ethiopian empire (9)
- Soft surface texture (3)
- Lift (5)
- Skipper (7)
- Assign to different roles (6)
- Kampala's country (6)
- At my place in France? (4,3)
- US automotive manufacturer founded in Michigan in 1900, taken over by Chrysler in 1928 and now owned by Fiat (5)
- Female in a fleece (3)
- Circus performer's security device (6,3)
- Conspicuous (3-8)

Down

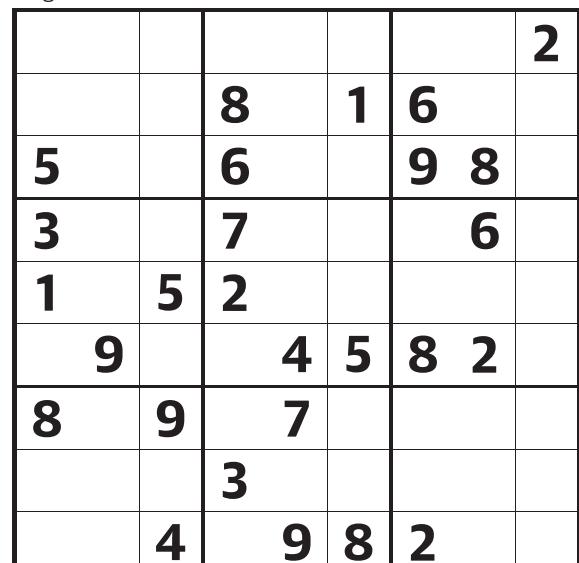
- One, some, every or all (3)
- Woman entertaining guests (7)
- Principality on the Riviera with a Formula One Grand Prix (6)
- Plod - down-and-out (5)
- Safely restricted to a particular area (9)
- Code-breaking criminal (4-7)
- Unplanned natural behaviour (11)
- Terrible foe (9)
- Split the bill equally (2,5)
- Poorly adjusted person (6)
- Organised sound (5)
- Convent resident (3)



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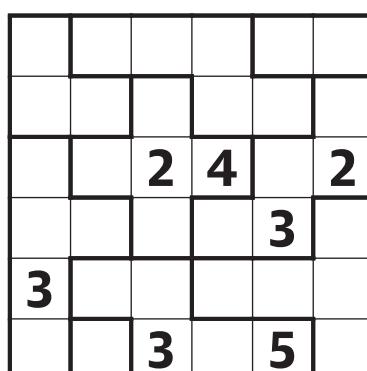
Sudoku no 5,786

Hard. Fill the grid so that each row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9. Printable version at theguardian.com/sudoku



Suguru

Fill the grid so that each square in an outlined block contains a digit. A block of 2 squares contains the digits 1 and 2, a block of three squares contains the digits 1, 2 and 3, and so on. No same digit appears in neighbouring squares, not even diagonally.



Wordsearch

Can you find 15 sounds in the grid? Words can run forwards, backwards, vertically or diagonally, but always in a straight, unbroken line.



Word wheel

Find as many words as possible using the letters in the wheel. Each must use the central letter and at least two others. Letters may be used only once. You may not use plurals, foreign words or proper nouns. There is at least one nine-letter word to be found. TARGET: Excellent-61. Good-51. Average-37.



Pet corner

Which band wrote the 1971 song Black Dog?

- Black Sabbath
- Pink Floyd
- Led Zeppelin
- Wishbone Ash

Answer top right



This newly reuniting kingdom may just be an illusion *Martin Kettle, page 3*

In Ukraine, our joy is tempered with caution *Nataliya Gumenyuk, page 4*

What became of Britain's Black foster babies? *The long read, page 5*

G2
Daily pullout
life &
arts
section
Inside

The Guardian Thursday 15 September 2022

Opinion
and ideas

Journal



It's one law for our billionaire king, another for the rest of us

Aditya Chakraborty



During that soggy afternoon when the Queen was still said to be only ill, the BBC's Clive Myrie was filling time. Only hours before, he noted, Liz Truss had been making "a rather important statement" on just how families would pay their heating bills this winter. All was now "insignificant". It was, the usually excellent presenter later admitted, "a poor choice of word".

Except it wasn't. If anything, it was painfully on the nose. The man on the TV unwittingly but precisely anticipated how the financial crisis engulfing millions of Britons would be treated in the coming days: as a matter of no consequence. In Tuesday's Daily Mail, it took until page 28 to crop up. In that day's Sun, page 20. The Times and the Telegraph yawned it off altogether.

Our MPs have been worse. Last Thursday, the new prime minister set out a plan to cap energy costs. Tagged at £150bn, it's easily the single biggest fiscal intervention by any government since the second world war - a vast sum that these Tory tailenders seem determined to spend as badly and unfairly as possible. To take one example: the 4.5 million people on pre-pay meters will get zero extra help from Truss.

Rather than scrutinise these measures, MPs spent two long days delivering tributes to the monarchy, such as this from the former minister Tracey Crouch: "Our six-year-old took my hand in his and said, 'Don't worry, Mummy: the King will look after us now.' He is right. God save the King." Thus were you served by your representatives - and now parliament is shut for 10 days, and the next month will be dominated by party conferences.

As youngsters, both the prime minister and Keir Starmer were in favour of abolishing the monarchy. They have first-hand knowledge not only of republican feeling but also of the wider ambivalence that often greets the royal family. Yet they haven't even tried to represent this pluralism of opinion, which is one of the defining features of any democracy. Instead, what we get is a grand show of state power, complete with the army, the navy and the BBC's Nick Witchell.

During this period of enforced mourning everyone is told what to think, even while millions of people worry over how to eat. The official mood is an ersatz mawkishness. Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone, instructed Auden. Today's equivalent is Norwich city council closing bike racks, and Morrisons turning down the beeping

ILLUSTRATION:
BILL BRAGG



2

It's one law for our billionaire king, another for the rest of us

Aditya Chakrabortty

← Continued from front

 at its checkouts - while Center Parcs was all set to turf out holidaymakers for the day of the funeral.

Away from such performances, the isle is full of noises - a sense of chaos suspended. For an idea of the devastation to come, speak to Paul Morrison. A policy adviser at the Methodist church, he has been analysing the financial diaries recently filled in by visitors to food banks, debt clinics and other church-based projects. Right now, he finds, a little over half of respondents - 56% - can carry on without falling into debt. It may mean walking an hour to the jobcentre, rather than taking a bus; it can be thrown off even by the smallest accident, but with luck it can be done.

 scroll forward two weeks, though, and add in higher energy prices, and everything changes. Even with Truss's new measures, just 2% of his group can survive financially. The other 98% are wiped out. Years of reporting have shown me that very poor people are the best budgeters in the country - better than any pinstriped auditor. They can account for every pound in and every pound out. Come 1 October, they will have no margin to cushion them.

And so they will sink into the depths beneath any safety net. Meanwhile, others will float above the law of the land. It has not been widely reported, but King Charles won't have to pay a penny of inheritance tax on the vast estate passed to him by one of the wealthiest women in the world. Nor is he under any legal obligation to pay income tax; he does so voluntarily. This has been the arrangement only since 1993. For decades beforehand, the monarchy paid no tax at all.

When that came to light, the public outcry, coupled with the anger of ordinary taxpayers asked to stump up for repairs to Windsor Castle, forced the Queen and her eldest son to rethink their affairs. When John Major announced this deal in the Commons, he defended the lack of inheritance tax as being in the service of "the overwhelming wish of people in this country". The people in this country were, of course, never asked.

When Dennis Skinner asked on which portion of her assets - which, in today's figures, include the £16bn crown estate, the £650m duchy of Lancaster, and the estates at Balmoral and Sandringham - would be taxed, Major saw red. Only the fact that it was Skinner's birthday, he replied, stopped him from responding "in the beastly way in which I would otherwise have responded to the ludicrous question that he asked me". The self-styled boy from Brixton has, inevitably, placed himself at the very forefront of this week's National Grovel.

The truth is that, despite what the textbooks say, our parliamentary democracy remains accountable to the royal family. As my colleagues Rob Evans and David Pegg have revealed over the years, more than 1,000 laws have been vetted by the Queen or Charles before they were even put in front of parliament.

Under the procedure of Queen's or King's consent, ministers alert the monarch to any draft bill that might affect their private wealth. Since their assets span everything from country estates to housing, much of which the public don't even know about, that grants them a huge amount of power over the very process of drafting the laws that govern the rest of us.

Prefer not to sell your houses, Charles? Then your tenants will just have to tolerate this 21st-century feudalism. Don't want those pipelines running through your land in Scotland, Ma'am? Then you will be exempt from the law covering everyone else - and no one at Holyrood will be told, until they read it in the Guardian. "Do you know that there is a duke in Scotland who can ride 90 miles without leaving his own estate," asks a character in Victor Hugo's 1869 novel, *The Man Who Laughs*. "Do you know that Her Majesty has £700,000 sterling from the civil list, besides castles, forests, domains, fiefs, tenancies, freeholds, prebendaries, tithes, rent, confiscations, and fines, which bring in over a million sterling?"

"Yes," comes the reply. "The paradise of the rich is made out of the hell of the poor."

The Guardian

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Kwasi Kwarteng

The new chancellor is better at making enemies than economic policy

Ever since he was a boy, Kwasi Kwarteng has shown rare skill in wrongfooting opponents. At an interview for a place at Cambridge University, the Etonian heard the tutor confess that this was his first time interviewing entrance candidates. "Don't worry, sir," beamed Master Kwarteng. "You did fine." The cheek paid off. He got in.

After only one week as chancellor, he is now trying a similar strategy against the Labour opposition. In his sights is what he dubs "the same old economic managerialism", as practised by the Treasury and the Bank of England. While praising his new department as an excellent finance ministry, good at keeping a lid on the deficit, he has instructed staff that their entire focus must "be on growth".

Keir Starmer and Rachel Reeves can be forgiven some confusion. Isn't this their language? Ever since John Maynard Keynes criticised "the Treasury view" and its focus on penny-pinching over growing the economy, those on the left have had in their sights those institutions that set economic policy. It was why Harold Wilson put George Brown in charge of a giant new Department for Economic Affairs to circumvent No 11's influence. And why, in 1995, the then economics editor of the Guardian, Will Hutton, declared in *The State We're In* that "reform of the Treasury is one pivot on which national renewal hangs". It was also the focus of Jeremy Corbyn's "institutional turn".

Mr Kwarteng is no Corbynite, nor indeed has he previously evinced much worry about the mindset of the mandarins at Horse Guards Parade. In his maiden speech of 2010, the new MP for Spelthorne

blasted Labour for some imagined profligacy while in government. His economic thinking, so far as he ever expressed any, has been rather a rum mixture of hard-right thinktank and Surrey golf club, moaning about red tape, taxes and the supposed idleness of the British worker.

But moving into No 11 when your party is trailing badly in the polls, the next election is looming and the economy is heading into recession does tend to concentrate the mind. Mr Kwarteng and Liz Truss need some alibi for spending money to shore up their vote, and a dash for growth is a plausible cover story. Yet, as previous chancellors can attest, wishing for growth is not the same as achieving it. Nothing Ms Truss said in this summer's long Tory leadership campaign gives any reason to believe she can help the economy break its dismal record. None of the leaks ahead of next week's mini-budget indicate it will propose anything apart from a lot of spending to cap energy bills, a few showy tax cuts and a whole heap of debt.

Classic Tory economics, in other words, although unlikely to fuel a burst of growth in the face of a global slowdown. And since the UK is going through a terms-of-trade crisis - in which the stuff we sell abroad is falling in value while the commodities and manufactured goods we import are soaring in price - markets are likely to fret about the sustainability of our financial position. These worries can be allayed, especially with a sovereign central bank, but it helps to have politicians who look and sound serious.

Sadly, Mr Kwarteng's sacking of Treasury permanent secretary Tom Scholar suggests anything but seriousness. Just as with Mark Sedwill, this has the hallmarks of a Brexit hit job against a very able civil servant. And the anti-Treasury rhetoric also sounds familiar. While not very good in government, today's Conservatives are extremely adept at passing the blame, whether it is on to judges, would-be asylum seekers or the "woke" left. The latest entrants on the list would appear to be Treasury mandarins.

House of Commons

It is right to pause politics, but for too long Britain has been without government

News that Queen Elizabeth II was on her deathbed interrupted a government in the process of tackling an emergency. Literally so, in the sense that information was passed to Liz Truss in the chamber of the Commons. The prime minister had just announced plans to freeze energy prices - a vast and expensive state intervention. Almost immediately, parliament, along with the rest of Britain's constitutional apparatus, switched into mourning gear. Politics gave way to the pageantry of succession.

Britain has already lost a summer of government to a Conservative leadership election in which only a tiny fraction of the national electorate could vote. Boris Johnson squandered his valedictory period as prime minister on holidays and burnishing a largely fictitious legacy. The Tories turned their back on the country while problems heaped up in the neglected Downing Street. To suggest that parliament might only sit for seven or eight "working" days between 21 July, when it broke for the summer recess, and its planned return on 17 October - almost a quarter of a year - was extraordinarily remiss.

Downing Street has now confirmed that it's looking at shortening the month-long conference recess. It must do so. Shaving off a day or two won't suffice, when there is still a war in Ukraine and Britain's relations with its European neighbours are still frozen, thanks largely to myopic brinkmanship and threats to

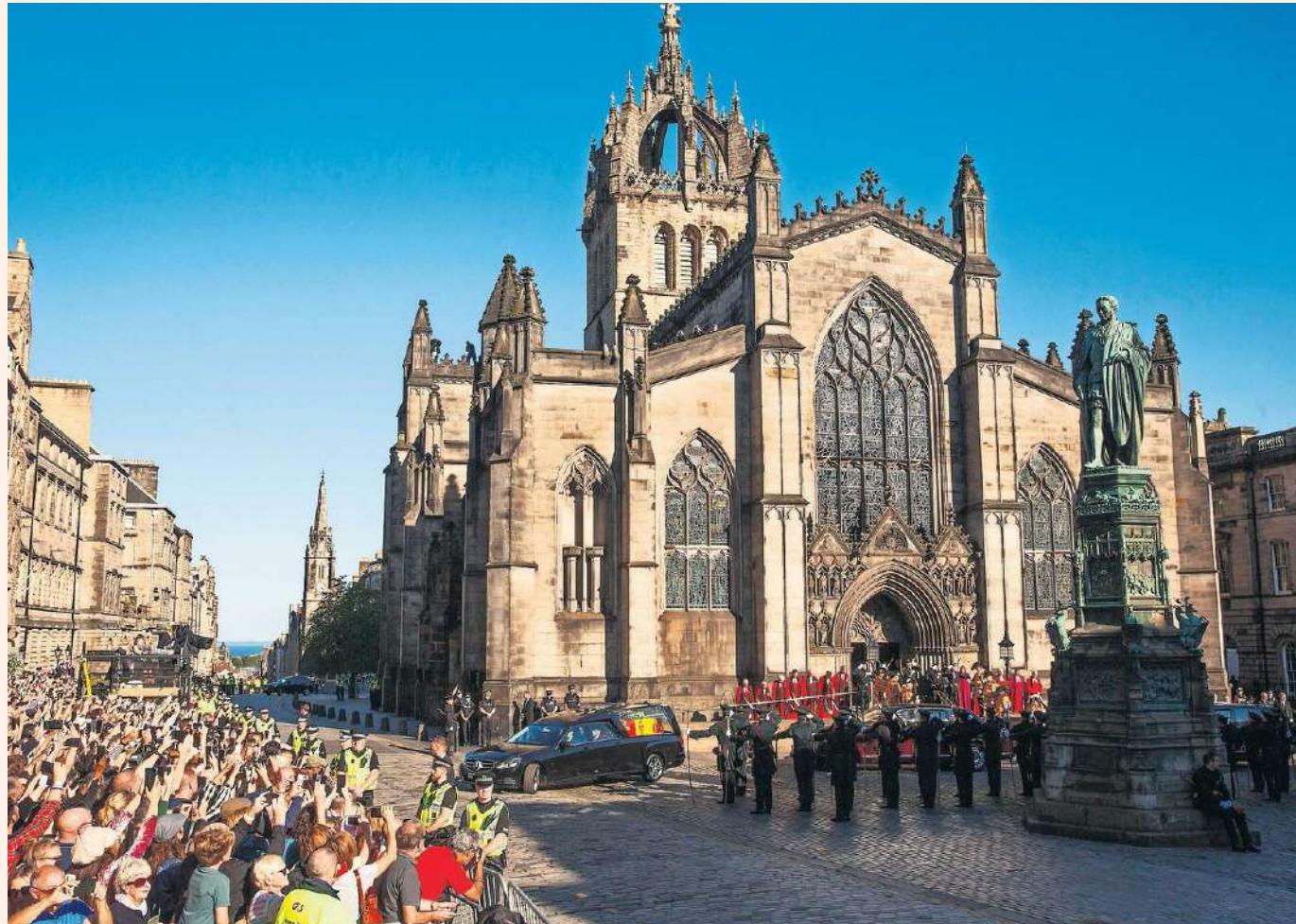
abandon the Northern Ireland protocol of the Brexit agreement - a foolish tactic to which the new prime minister appears as committed as her predecessor.

If Ms Truss runs into trouble with the right over big state interventions on energy she may be tempted, foolishly, to play up a clash with the EU. In such fraught times, parliament can ill afford to suspend scrutiny of law and government. Downing Street can survive happily without MPs asking urgent questions, tabling amendments and summoning ministers to committees. But those activities are central to the operation of democracy. It is especially important now that there is a new government.

The prime minister is in that role by appointment of the late Queen on the basis that she leads the party with a Commons majority, won under a different leader. Her mandate is constitutionally valid but secondhand. Her personal authority is not yet established. She may be prominent in performing the ceremonial functions of a prime minister in the transition from one monarch to another, but that is no substitute for political scrutiny.

Already there are signs of an arrogance about Ms Truss's administration that isn't justified by any achievements in her current role, or previous ones. The new prime minister is not inclined to appoint an ethics adviser. She said she has "always acted with integrity", so there is no need for an official to advise her. Boris Johnson has killed the "good chap" - or "good chappess" - theory of government.

It is fitting that politics be paused, briefly, for national mourning on the death of a monarch. But suspending politics has limits, especially in the face of an impending crisis. Time is of the essence. If the Conservative government is to prove its seriousness, it needs to bring parliament back without delay, and tell us now.



Is our newly reuniting kingdom just an illusion?

Martin Kettle



As the Queen's coffin proceeded solemnly up the Royal Mile to St Giles's Cathedral from Holyroodhouse on Monday amid packed crowds, I texted a colleague out on the sunlit streets of Edinburgh. These were extraordinary scenes, we both agreed, but would they have lasting consequences in and for Scotland? My friend's reply was quick and emphatic. "I've got no doubt about it. All this unity!"

Thousands are gathering this week to mark the death of the Queen, not just in Scotland. The crowds will grow even larger as Monday's state funeral draws nearer. The need to be part of the shared story, and to attempt to process the personal loss, is strong and widespread. In spite of the occasional protest, which it is crass to penalise, we are living through an immense collective event. It is silly to deny it - but equally vital not to misinterpret it.

Even before the Queen's death, there was little dispute that she, and the monarchy itself, were generally unifying forces in most of modern Britain. That feeling was not undivided - a quarter of Britons and a third of Scots told polling organisations last year that they would like the country to become a republic after the Queen died. This week's upsurge of public feeling for the Queen, so visible in Scotland and now in England, will probably have tamped down that republican support for a while, but there is a significant dissenting minority.

The evident goodwill towards King Charles's generally adept and graceful assumption of his new role will have helped, too. At the end of a gruelling week in which the King will have made moving and well-received visits to all four parts of the UK - he was in Northern Ireland on Tuesday and will be in Wales on Friday - the new monarch's wish to act as a unifying force is every bit as strong as his mother's.

But to be a unifying force does not by itself result in unity. The country must also want to be unified. This aspect is less certain. The events of the past week have undoubtedly strengthened both the monarchy and the union. Yet the goodwill of today may not endure so strongly. In any case, the monarchy is no more capable

The Queen's coffin leaves St Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh on Tuesday
PHOTOGRAPH: MURDO MACLEOD/GUARDIAN

For many people living in England, recent days will have provided a crash course in Scotland and its institutions

on its own of securing the longer-term unity of the country than were the feelgood successes of Team GB at the London Olympics. Something more widespread is required. And it is an open question whether modern Britain wishes or is able to sustain that.

It is one of the curiosities of this moment that, by dying at Balmoral, the Queen thrust Scotland into the spotlight at the centre of the national stage in a manner that would never have occurred had she died in London or at Windsor. If she had died in southern England, the media coverage would have been more remorselessly metrocentric, and the diverse texture of the Scottish, Northern Irish and Welsh dimensions of the succession far less salient.

Instead, the event and the coverage have been more truly, but perhaps only briefly, national. An accident of geography gave us the hearse's poignant passage from Deeside down the glorious Angus coast, its progress back and forth through Edinburgh's magnificent Old Town and the more intimate service at St Giles's. For anyone living in England, the last few days have provided a crash course in Scotland and its institutions, of which most English people know nothing, and an all-too-rare chance to see Britain as a more complicated, three-dimensional country than generally occurs under London's cultural dominance.

All this, though, will cut little ice with the country's real political rulers. Whether they intended it or not, too many politicians have imbibed the devolve-and-forget approach to the other nations. As a result, they have presided over a growing apart, not a coming together.

The Scottish writer Gerry Hassan dryly observed this week that it was unlikely that the crowds on the streets were "actively celebrating their subjecthood" under Britain's constitutional monarchy. They were, he argued, giving voice to something more subtle. "They may show deference and faith," Hassan wrote, but they also want "to believe in good authority and leadership". The rapper Darren McGarvey, no apologist for the monarchy, said something similar, tweeting that the scenes in Edinburgh "provide meaning and solace and a sense of connection and unity".

Both past and current Conservative governments seem incapable of seeing this. Boris Johnson inevitably bears a particular responsibility. His indifference to Scotland, and even to his own party there, has fed nationalists with a perfect cover for their own failings. His treatment of Wales - no visit to the Welsh government in Cardiff after the first month of his prime ministership - was cavalier and insulting. His destructive opportunism in Northern Ireland has made everything there more difficult, not less.

Liz Truss claims to be a child of the union, largely on the basis of having spent part of her life in Paisley. But her lazy and partisan campaign comments about Scotland, Wales and, in particular, Northern Ireland tell their own story. Truss has been present with King Charles on all of his visits around the UK this week. But if she thinks she is witnessing a spontaneous outburst of revived unionism in the collective national respect towards the Queen on our streets, she is deceiving herself - and us.



In Ukraine, our joy is tempered with caution

Nataliya Gumenyuk



It's a liberation - something Ukrainians have been awaiting for half a year now. According to President Zelenskiy, the Ukrainian army has retaken more than 6,000 sq km (2,400 sq miles) from the Russians - including a few towns in the Donbas, which took months for the Russian army to capture. Any image appearing from a newly liberated town is watched with fascination. I was glued to a short video showing the Ukrainian army entering Balakliya - the first of the larger towns to be liberated in the Kharkiv region. Women emerged from basements, hugging the military and suggesting they stay and eat. "Boys, we have some pancakes left," they said. The soldiers begged off. "We can't now, please, perhaps a bit later," they

replied. "We need to go on, and it's dangerous here - you need to be evacuated."

The speed and success of the operation so far have come as a shock, and it is extremely difficult for anyone to verify what is happening on the ground - the general staff of Ukraine's armed forces unofficially restricted access for journalists to the frontline during this operation. But I have been covering the war for months now, and at a conference in Kyiv over the past few days I had the opportunity to talk to Ukrainian army figures about the counteroffensive.

What we have heard so far is that the Ukrainian military has managed to not only move the frontline, but to break through it and make progress deep into the Russian military's rear. Russian troops have abandoned their positions en masse, leaving their equipment, vehicles, shells and even money: in one of the towns, Ukrainian police reportedly found 20m Russian roubles (£290,000) left by the occupiers.

When a Russian general tried to pass the retreat off as a planned "regrouping", even Russian propagandists ridiculed him.

I spoke to a senior military officer who was surprised and still a bit wary about the outcome. "Most probably it's phenomenal bungling from the Russians. It still could possibly be an ambush. But the more we observe, the more it looks like the bungling of the Russian forces."

I also managed to catch Ukraine's minister of defence, Oleksii Reznikov, who with a smile told me that there should be "more surprises". However, he became more serious and stressed: "If Russian morale is low in the Kharkiv region, in the south the airborne troops are fighting, and they are highly motivated - and making life for the Ukrainian army really difficult."

People are generally hopeful. Within days of this new offensive having begun, the Ukrainian army

claims to have captured thousands of Russian soldiers as prisoners of war. This raises hopes that at least 8,000 Ukrainian military personnel being held in Russia might be released in exchange.

Make no mistake, though: it's not an easy path. Ukrainian soldiers are fighting and dying. Scrolling through my Facebook feed, I learned about the death of the comrade of two of my soldier friends, killed in the Kharkiv region during the past few days, and read about members of the national opera joining the army.

So what happens next? The general sense is that we should expect attacks on civilian infrastructure. Kremlin troops bombed towns they wanted to subdue, such as Severodonetsk and Mariupol, but have refrained from destroying power stations in the rest of Ukraine.

The destruction of the power grids would be worse when the cold weather comes - November and December. On 11 September, the day after I spoke with Ukrainian officers, Russia fired missiles on power stations, leaving five regions without electricity: Kharkiv, Sumy, Zaporizhzhia, Dnipro and the Donbas. In Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv, which suffered the most, two energy company workers were killed while trying to restore power for millions.

Residents in the newly regained territories have been advised to evacuate - they were not allowed to do so by the Russians during the occupation. Too many houses have been destroyed; the newly liberated villages are the new frontline, and they are without gas, water and electricity - but also without Russians. Zelenskiy's recent address turned this scene into a slogan for the latest stage of the war. Ukraine will happily live without gas and electricity, so long as the Russians are gone. "Without you" is the new motto.

*
Nataliya Gumenyuk
is a Ukrainian journalist and the author of *Lost Island: Tales from the Occupied Crimea*

The long read



'Farmed'

What became of Britain's Black foster babies?

From the 1950s, thousands of children of African parents were happily fostered by white British families. But for some, the well-intentioned plan was deeply damaging. *By Jimi Famurewa*



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emi Martins' foster mother used to tell her a story about her childhood; a story that helped explain what it was like to be the white English parent of a Black African child. Martins was a baby when it happened, so it would have been in the early 1970s. Her foster mum was pushing her in a pram through Canvey Island, the blustery Essex seaside settlement where she lived with her other foster siblings, when she spotted a mirrored version of herself approaching. Another white woman; another gurgling, Black baby in a pushchair.

There was a nervous, excited flash of recognition, like two VW Campervan drivers waving awkward hand signals at each other on the motorway. "This other woman apparently went: 'Ooh, you've got one as well,'" said Martins, with a laugh, telling me the story half a century later. "And then she said: 'What do you feed yours?'" Martins (not her real name) left a beat, raised an eyebrow. "And my foster mum said: 'Well, they just have the same food that we have.' To which this woman said: 'Oh, I just cook boiled rice for mine. That's all they have.'" There was another careful pause, a disbelieving chuckle. "Needless to say, my foster mum was incredulous. And she sent this woman off with a bit of a flea in her ear about how disgusting it was - [that] you could just give your kids boiled rice all the time. But it was quite interesting to hear that story, given that my fostering experience was so positive."

It feels, on the face of it, like a particularly strange and unsettling vignette that sticks out even amid the notoriously intolerant landscape of 70s Britain. (In 1974, the National Front - who called for the compulsory deportation of non-white settlers and their descendants - fielded more than 90 candidates in the October general election, up from 54 in February of that year, and just 10 in the election of 1970.) But perhaps the most striking thing about the story Martins' foster mother told her is that it was not unusual at all.

After the second world war, it became commonplace for African immigrants establishing themselves in the UK to privately foster their children with white families. From the moment the first advert was placed by a Nigerian family in the childcare journal *Nursery World* in 1955, there was great demand. As a listing in a 1974 edition of the magazine read: "Pretty baby girl needs a new home."

The following year, the magazine introduced a regular *Homes Wanted* section in the classified ads, and in the period between 1966 and 1970, 6,700 adverts were placed by west African parents seeking carers for their children. Though official figures on the number of approved agreements are hazy, a 1968 story in the *Times* reported that up to 5,000 children from west Africa were being fostered - or "farmed", as it came to be informally known - in this way every year.

Not unexpectedly, some of these children's stories are of prejudice, abuse and a kind of traumatising cultural disorientation: of afro-textured hair left to grow unkempt and knotted because white foster parents didn't know what to do with it; of Black children forced to eat their meals on the floor; of being singled out, demeaned or being spat at by a racist policeman when they were five years old.

But tales of private fostering are not always negative. For some, being farmed to a white foster family was a short-lived, benign experience - an unusual, temporary engagement to be filed away deep in the memory and only jogged loose years later; just one presence in a child's early life.

And it is this point that brings us to the nub of what those generations of postwar African parents were thinking, and helps us, perhaps, to make more sense of an act - the giving away of your children to paid strangers in a foreign land - that is hard to justify when viewed through a modern, western lens. Or as Joy Okoye, a barrister and transracial adoption specialist, put it in a 2001 *Guardian* interview: "West African children, unlike their European counterparts, are not seen as possessions of a nuclear family. In Africa, it takes a village to raise a child - and very often a village miles away from the family home. It is normal, extended family kinship, and the children placed away from home accepted it as such." But replicating this communal, rural form of child rearing in an unfamiliar metropolis came with its own unexpected difficulties and psychological reverberations.

Often, fostering stories like Martins' were unambiguously positive experiences in which children's lives were enriched by caregivers who adored them as though they were their own and felt the same love flow back. "They treated us as though we were their own kids," said Martins. "There was no element of: 'You're the foster kids, you get second best.'"

Naturally, this level of closeness posed a problem for what was supposed to be a transactional, temporary arrangement. Having been sent away while their parents finished their studies, saved money, found appropriate housing or, more broadly, got themselves situated, farmed children were mostly meant to return to their birth parents. But it was rarely that simple. The bonds forged between some of these children and their supposed foster parents were hard to sever. And so when it came time to leave - to go and join their birth family in some other part of the UK or, on plenty of occasions, back in Nigeria or Ghana - understandably, many of them didn't want to go. Some regarded what should have been a happy reunion, a restoring of the natural order, with pure dread.

There are multiple reports of African children that simply refused to leave the life and culture they knew in order to join biological parents that - despite regular visits - would often be relative strangers. A mid-70s expansion of the custody rights afforded to foster parents (specifically an amendment made to the Children Act 1975) precipitated numerous legal battles over the rights to raise privately fostered African children.

The farming experiment, even at its mildest, was not the frictionless, emotionally detached arrangement that some envisioned. It was messy. And confusing.

And its legacy is a long shadow that has loomed over the UK's Black African diaspora for almost 70 years.

Beyond the specific testimonies of those who were farmed there is, I think, something universal to be explored. The cultural dissonance felt so keenly by lots of privately fostered African children will chime with other second-generation kids that feel caught between identities. To be shaped by African and English parents feels like a literal version of a sensation shared by millions of British-born Africans. And it is a feeling that is eloquently expressed by Tobi Oredein in a *Buzzfeed* article, a journalist who was farmed at 10 days old and remained with her white foster parents for many years.

During a first trip to Nigeria - in the company of her mothers - Oredein had an epiphany about what it is to be not just a child of private fostering, but a hyphenated British-Nigerian: "Why had I thought my 'motherland' would fill the void of unfamiliarity, when I struggled to achieve the comfort I sought in Nigerian communities in London? I knew England would never quite accept me as one of her own, but Nigeria couldn't, either."

The extreme pragmatism of those African parents who arrived amid the rubble of war and empire left behind a psychological scar that is only starting to be examined. Because for all these children who survived these experiences there has only ever been one question. Why?

To truly understand private fostering we must first understand the ebb and flow of west African settlement in the UK. And also, the evolving way that some of the 20th century's first African Londoners were regarded by the country they wished to call home.

In the mid-20th century, as west African nations nudged towards independence, a wave of African students - with few opportunities for higher education available to them at home - travelled to UK to study. They came to arm themselves with not just an education, but the vocational skills to run these fledgling countries.

But, of course, things didn't go completely to plan. Many early African settlers were subject to a sudden, jerking reality check; profoundly changed and - more often than not - traumatised by what they faced in the UK. On Britain's shores they felt a sense of isolation and cultural dislocation. There were the temptations of alcohol or illicit sexual relationships. There was the tightening vice of financial pressure. And there was, above it all, British society's bone-deep racism: a wearying constant that manifested through the threat of physical violence, demoralising depictions in the press, or widespread "colour bar" policies that made everything from accommodation to basic socialising a challenge.

The daily indignities of this anti-Black sentiment carried a heavy emotional toll. Many west African students became permanently scarred, distressed and politically radicalised or unmoored and resentful of the empire. This fed anxieties about the growing issue of student wellbeing, in Africa and within the British government agencies tasked with managing the transition of an empire towards decolonisation.

And so, in early 1955, when the Colonial Office announced that married overseas students staying for longer than nine months - at that point, overwhelmingly male - could bring their wives with them to Britain, there was a traceable line of logic to it. It wasn't just that the presence of these African wives would help allay societal jitters about interracial marriages between white British women and Black African men - longstanding fuel for race hate. The Colonial Office hoped that the presence of these wives would offer a useful link to home for the students.

So then, naturally, when the inevitable byproduct of reunited husbands and wives occurred - which is to say, babies were born in Britain to Africans whose stay was always supposed to be temporary, and whose focus was training and study - it was a problem that needed solving. That year, 1955, the fateful issue of *Nursery World* published the first advert seeking private foster care for an African baby. A government-

Farming director
Adewale
Akinnuoye-
Agbaje in 2019
ANTONIO OLMO/
THE GUARDIAN





backed means to both support and control overseas students during their temporary stay, precipitated an arrangement that would bind African and English, Black and white, together for decades to come.

What caused private fostering to persist as an arrangement up to at least the 90s? What were those on either side of the transaction really getting out of it? Let us start with the white, often working-class, families that answered the adverts like that first one in *Nursery World*. The financial benefits of paid wardship were a lure. Records show that families in the 60s could make as much as £3 a week for taking in fostered children (the equivalent of about £60 today). In fact, public discourse at the time characterised it as a kind of money-making scheme among white working-class women, with pearl-clutching press headlines fretting about "Babies for hire" and shiftless young women "squeezing gold from babies".

True, money was almost certainly a prime motivator for a lot of the women. Especially when you factor in the potential ostracisation and prejudice they would have faced for taking in Black children at a time when racial tensions were high. The summer of 1958 had brought anti-Black rioting in Notting Hill and, by 1964, the Conservative MP Peter Griffiths won the Smethwick seat at the general election while promising to lobby for the repatriation of "the coloureds". But there is evidence that many of these white foster parents - occasionally childless or with grownup children of their own and an appreciable paternal or maternal void - took these children because of a sense that it was the right thing to do.

Lola Jaye was taken in as a six-week-old baby in the mid-70s by London-based pensioners with a longstanding history of privately fostering west African children.

"My nan had been fostering since the 60s, so long before my time," said Jaye, a British-Nigerian author

The figures are hazy, but a 1968 Times story reported that 5,000 children from west Africa were being 'farmed' every year

Stills from
Farming and,
bottom right,
The Last Tree
ANGUS YOUNG; PR

and therapist who, bar a brief, tumultuous return to her birth family as an adolescent, spent all of her childhood being raised by "Nan and Ted" in central London. "Her first foster children were children that had to move here because of the Biafran war. So that's when she started and, from then, it was just word of mouth in a small community of Nigerians who came here to work and study. Nan actually ended up looking after my cousins, who are 10 years older than me, so she was looking after people in my family long before I was born."

But what of the west Africans who entrusted their children, often when they were merely a few weeks old, to these people? What was there to be gained from the arrangement, beyond the initial desperate need for childcare? And why did farming continue, even after west Africans had presumably established some of the family networks they had lacked in the previous decades?

Truthfully, it was an equally complicated transaction on the African side. On the one hand, there is evidence that aspirational, upper-middle-class west Africans quite liked the idea of having paid help, and paid English help at that. Nigerians were coming from

a society where domestic servants, in the form of the live-in "house boys" and "house girls" that cook, clean and perform other menial tasks of the home, were commonplace.

As Joanna Traynor, author of the transracial fostering novel *Sister Josephine*, theorised in the 2001 *Guardian* article on the subject of farming: "For some, it was a status symbol to have a white nanny in the country [Britain]." It is hard to weigh the precise rationale of all those early west African students forced to think on their feet while temporarily displaced, starting families and trying to better themselves and contribute to their countries. But it is not wide of the mark to suggest that having the ability to outsource the most demanding aspects of early parenthood, and focus entirely on the work that would improve your future prospects, would have been viewed, by some, as an immense privilege.

"I've never really gotten to the bottom of why we were fostered," said Martins of her and her brother's separate stints with their white proxy parents in Canvey Island. "I don't think [my birth father] was doing any sort of formal qualifications. It was more just so he could apply himself more to his work as an engineer. And my mum was working as well, doing some clerical work. That was the impression I got. And when they have been cornered on it a bit more they've said: 'Well, we wanted you to have a good start with British people.' They didn't use the word 'assimilate'. But I guess there was something around that."

West African parents knew enough about the hostilities of postwar society to realise that facility with English language and culture had real value. Giving your children an immersive education in Britishness could only be a positive thing - not just as a means to embed them within postcolonial society, but to bestow greater advantages when you ultimately returned back home. Surely the ability to move seamlessly between spheres and cultures, between western and African, was an added benefit?

It was, like so much related to the whole enterprise of farming, a well-meaning idea that did not have the desired result. Shutting between two cultures - two homes, two parenting styles, two worlds - proved disorienting. As Martins remembers: "I would have to adjust to different rules, different parents and different priorities." What's more, sending African children to white families in supposedly quieter areas did not shield them from prejudice or abuse. The whole enterprise of private fostering, which had bloomed from the Colonial Office's attempt to soothe the emotional struggles of west African students, had succeeded in intensifying those issues and passing them on to another generation.

And then, 60 or so mostly silent years after that first advert in *Nursery World*, these farmed children began to use their voices, and tally the psychological cost that came from private fostering's extreme pragmatism.

For Shola Amoo, a London-raised British-Nigerian director who was privately fostered as a child, the decision to commit his personal experience to film was not an easy one. "It took a while to find a way to tell the story," said Amoo.

Part of Amoo's realisation was that the best way to do justice to this part of his history was to make sure that it wasn't solely about him. "I was fostered from a racially chromatic [white] space to a more diverse, inner-city one," he said. "I'm lifting from certain personal experiences, but I was talking to other people who were fostered, other Nigerians, and getting their stories." Amoo's film, *The Last Tree*, follows a young boy called Femi as he comes of age in Lincolnshire, multicultural south-east London and the thrumming, traffic-clogged streets of Lagos. The conflicting currents of alienation and acceptance that visibly flow through him during a climactic first trip back to Nigeria has the feel of truth spoken by someone who lived it.

At around eight years old, I remember being told by relatives that my cousin Tenne was going back to Nigeria on holiday when, in truth, he was moving back there permanently. The intention was that the falsehood would cushion





the blow for me. In fact, it did the opposite – serving only to make his prolonged absence, and the slow, dawning realisation that he wasn't coming back, more confusing and painful. I do not doubt that others in London's Black African diaspora have similar memories – of atomised family units and well-intentioned parental decisions yielding unforeseen, occasionally traumatic repercussions. And this, I think, is what made the emergence of others' farming stories in the past few years so affecting for me and many like me. Private fostering may have only affected some, but the issues it brings into focus – of familial secrecy and dissonance between generations of immigrant settlers – are universal among many Black African Britons. To see all this thrust into the spotlight felt at once thrilling and transgressive.

That notion of dissonance is key. For the benign, decades-long conspiracy of silence around private fostering stories to be broken marked a fascinating cultural transition. Not just in the wider context of a media landscape where Black stories of all kinds had a newfound currency, but also in the sense that British-African identity was clearly undergoing a pivotal change. There was a generational swing from the necessary stoicism of those first west African settlers in the UK – with both the influence of colonialism and an omertà-like culture of respect and secrecy conspiring to produce the stiffest of upper lips – to a way of being that was more about openness, psychological curiosity and a desire to explore and, perhaps, heal past traumas.

There is an irony to the idea that the gifts and advantages those African parents sought to bestow – through both farming specifically and, more generally, a life in Britain – have opened up a chasm

Who do you identify with when you are too British to be accepted as African, and too African to be accepted as anything else?

between them and their children. Just as their parents' generation had found solace in stoicism and survival, this new wave of first-generation children, or at least some of them, found that they could not stay silent about what they had been through.

In *Farming* – a primal yowl of a film by British-Nigerian director Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje – the enforced return to the biological family unit is depicted as extreme and traumatising. In scenes inspired by Akinnuoye-Agbaje's tumultuous early life, a young boy raised in Britain is taken back to Nigeria by his parents at around eight, rendered mute by the change of environment, subjected to a tribal purging ceremony and then, months later, deposited back in his old foster home, back in the violently racist wilds of 80s Tilbury, even more maladjusted and troubled than he was when he left.

What does an experience like that do to your relationship with your birth parents and wider biological family? What does it do to your own personal

Children with their foster mother in London in 1948
GETTY

★
Jimi Famurewa
is a British-Nigerian journalist and broadcaster

relationship to that side of yourself? To African culture and your associations with it? In a 2012 conversation, Akinnuoye-Agbaje touched on this phenomenon; on how his forced return to Nigeria as a nine-year-old, as well as temporarily robbing him of speech, hardened his attitude towards Africa and Blackness in general.

"Now I had a reference point, and that really heightened my cultural identity crisis," he said. "I wanted to assimilate and go back to the abnormal normality I knew. I wanted to wash off the experience of Africa, but obviously I couldn't, because that's who I was. As much as I wanted to deny it, it was plaguing me, and I was reminded by the images coming through the TV, people on the streets and in the end my [foster] family in the house."

Akinnuoye-Agbaje's response to this glitch of identity was to become a self-hating skinhead, fighting shoulder to shoulder with the racists who once tormented him. This reaction was obviously extreme, but this notion of the many lasting ways that a private fostering experience can leave its mark on an individual – and inculcate, at best, mixed feelings towards the people and the traditions that put them in that particular position – is one that sits at the heart of any conversation about farming.

How do you square old traditions, values and personality traits with new ways of living and feeling? Who do you identify with, when you are too British to be accepted as African, and too African to be accepted as anything else? Is it possible, or even necessary, to seek answers from parents who gave you away to strangers?

What about real-life west African parents that entered their children into private fostering arrangements? Have they been able to explain themselves and their actions, even as a finger of blame is raised in their direction? Do they even feel that they need to? The answer to that last question, anecdotally at least, would be a firm "no".

Kemi Martins, when discussing the notion of witnessing any evidence of regret or remorse from her now elderly biological parents, puts it in simple terms. "There's a different way of relating," she said, describing that generational gulf. "That idea of: 'Oh, we've reflected now, so let's all have a group hug, cry and move forward' – that's not what it is. But I guess [my birth parents] are so used to battling through life and managing with what they've had that they're more on that survival level. Whereas we've had the luxury of being able to listen to emotions."

Here, yet again, we find ourselves back at the disconnect between African-born parents and their British-born children; between a culture predicated on stoicism and respect and one that embraces introspection and emotional openness. This disconnect is what has complicated some farmed children's relationship with not just their parents but their heritage. And for Martins, it's a feeling that goes right back to when she was first brought back into her biological family. "For me, I never really learned Yoruba, and so when you don't understand the language of your parents there's a level of understanding that will never be there," she said. "And I feel it's the same from [my parents'] perspective, the way they look at us. They'll say: 'You know you're not English? You're not white?' And I'll go: 'Hold on, I've lived here for more than 50 years – how can you possibly think [I'd be any different]?'

"I have to accept [my parents] for who they are," added Jaye, when considering the same issue. "My mum has been gone for a while now, but I still speak to my dad. He's 90, has other wives and other children. So I need to take away my prejudices about that, forgive and just deal with him as he is. He's an old man. So I'm going to do what I can for him, and I'm not going to have any malice about it, because that means I haven't truly let go." ●

Settlers: Journeys Through the Food, Faith and Culture of Black African London by Jimi Famurewa is published by Bloomsbury on 13 October. To preorder a copy, go to guardianbookshop.com

Established 1906

Country diary

Blackdown Hills, Somerset/Devon

When I moved to rural Somerset from India seven years ago, hunting for carnivores wasn't high on my list of things to do. And yet yesterday I set out with my brother, an OS map and some sketchy instructions in a text from a friend. We spent a good few hours foraging through the heather, picking our way around gorse, scrambling around in bracken, discovering that it's hard to find what you're not sure you're looking for. We came back, muddy and empty-handed. So I arranged to meet in the same place with the friend whose message had prompted this botanical safari.

We climb up a rocky pathway and then descend an escarpment on the other side. At one point, my friend veers off the track and I follow, clambering through a knee-high thicket of heather and gorse. The hillside is a pixelated blanket of many colours - flaming orange spikelets of bog asphodel, tiny mauve pompoms of devil's bit scabious, and mosses of every shade from russet to lime green.

White flags of cotton grass wave, calling a truce on summer. Above, the clouds are low-bellied and full of rain. Below, the sphagnum moss is plump and succulent. After the blinding heat of August, September spreads out like a balm. At every step, the bog reluctantly relinquishes our boots with a slurp, and our footprints quickly fill with water the colour of espresso.

Suddenly my friend squats down, parting the moss gently. "Over here," he says. And there they are: sundews. These carnivorous little plants grow in acidic bogs, where they spread their bejewelled crowns on cushions of moss.

Ignoring my damp knees, I get out my hand lens for a closer look. The stems unfurling from the knobbly basal rosette are covered with soft white hair. The plump, round leaves (from which the species gets its Latin name *Drosera rotundifolia*) are covered in crimson tendrils, each topped with a sparkling "dewdrop". This is a cocktail of digestive enzymes the plant secretes to entrap and then ingest its prey. Under my glass, I watch a tiny beetle meet its sweet, sticky end.

Now I know what to look for, I see them everywhere. Hundreds of sundews scattered across the hillside, waiting for the rain.

Anita Roy

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Power of collective grief in this time of change

Marina Hyde highlights the unpredictability of mass grief and how those at the centre of power can be unnerved by spontaneous public emotions (The tides of public feeling flow - where will they carry us?, 10 September). This observation is fair enough in so far as it goes. But we need to look into the nature of the events that inspire such emotions, rather than at the emotions themselves.

The Queen's death marks a transition between two stable states: that of her own long reign and that of the reign of her son, Charles, that has now begun. Events over the past few days are designed to create stability in an otherwise unstable liminal phase that will last until King Charles's coronation. The rituals that we have been witnessing are designed to avoid the potential disruption that all such rites of passage make possible (hence the repetition of words such as tradition and history).

The royal family is acutely aware of the potential threat to its hitherto accepted right to reign over the UK and various Commonwealth countries. Like all liminal personae, its members behave in a passive

or humble manner, obeying their unseen instructors' commands. They must be seen to be doing the right thing.

It is in such moments that "communitas" (Hyde's "mass anything") is often born - witness one woman giving the new king a kiss in front of Buckingham Palace. But communitas can also emerge as an opposing force (the response to the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, for example). This is what those in power are afraid of and do their utmost to prevent.

Prof Brian Moeran
Moretonhampstead, Devon

Marina Hyde is wrong to say that "politicians and many of our institutions are most frightened of the public having emotions". Has she never been to a party conference or heard a stump speech? At its worst, politics is the pushing of different emotional buttons, found in slogans such as "take back control" and "global Britain", referencing our (glorious) imperial past. Slogans work because they carry an emotional punch.

When exchanging them becomes all that there is, without the backing

of policies and real content, then it's no wonder, as she writes, that 61% of 18- to 34-year-olds consider parliamentary elections to be a bother. The feelings most people are experiencing over the death of a widely respected 96-year-old lady who died peacefully in her favourite place are natural - linked, as all mourning is, to our own mortality.

Harold Mozley
York

The outburst of mourning after the Queen's death is precisely the kind of emotion that those in authority would prefer: distracted and entirely passive. The emotion of protest challenges the power of the ruling class. It is an emotion that must be stifled, as the recent police and crime bill showed. The focus on mourning keeps the emotion focused in a way that precludes any challenge to authority.

Robert Beavis
Bristol

I normally laugh aloud at Marina Hyde's writing, but her column on Saturday left me with genuine fear. If the poll she quotes is remotely accurate, and around two-thirds of young people of voting age believe that we need a strong leader unfettered by parliament, then democracy in the UK is certainly in for a hard time. Another unwelcome legacy of the past three years.

Alan Whitehouse
Barnsley, South Yorkshire

Republicans face a grim reality in modern Britain

Re Zoe Williams' article (Being a republican was respectable. Now it can get you arrested, 13 September), I identify politically as a republican. It baffles me that in the 21st century I should be expected to show deference to an individual because of an accident of birth that entitles them to otherwise unattainable power, wealth and legal privilege.

I grew up in a Middle Eastern police state where I learned from a young age to be guarded in what I say and fearful of the consequences of speaking out. Having now made my home in the UK, in no small part to escape the stifling of human freedom in my country of birth, I confess that the sight and reports of arrests and police harassment of individuals expressing republican beliefs have been profoundly unsettling. I've warned my children to tread carefully and not express any views critical of the monarchy, given the belligerent intolerance demonstrated towards those calling for its abolition.

Name and address supplied

I am grateful to Zoe Williams for giving voice to the many republicans living in this country. The blanket coverage of the Queen's death has been stifling for anyone who is not a card-carrying, tea-towel-buying royalist. My son's school has been sending out emails talking of collective sadness and mourning, with no space for a differing point of view or discussion of the horrors committed in the name of empire. That, I was told, will come later, but for now we are all grieving.

Name and address supplied

I consider myself a republican (although I will admit to having a tear in my eye on hearing of the Queen's death), and I'd like to think that I can distinguish between respect for an individual and my thoughts about the institution of monarchy.

I wouldn't shout insults at a funeral procession out of respect, but there is something worrying about the reaction to those who have protested. Only a few months ago, we were shocked at the scenes from Russia of police dragging protesters away for holding up anti-war messages and even blank pieces of paper. In the UK, those who hold up banners questioning the monarchy are also being arrested. In some things we are not that far away from Vladimir Putin.

Paul Giblin
Madrid, Spain

Soothing solutions for crying babies

Forty-three years ago, my son was born and suffered badly from colic (Study suggests best way to soothe crying babies, 14 September). To get him to sleep, I would pick him up and march up and down the room singing my hopelessly inaccurate version of the Robin Hall and Jimmie Macgregor Gaelic porridge song, Brochan Lom. It never failed. I am now 78 and have never achieved anything scientifically successful. Please tell me, in my declining years, that my discovery preceded that of Japanese scientists.

Ian Morrison
Bolton, Greater Manchester

In the 19th century, a man developed a "quietening syrup" to stop babies crying while their mothers were working in factories. Many women had to bring their babies to the factories as they had nowhere else to leave them. The working day was 12 hours; there was a half-hour lunch break and it was only then that they were permitted to feed their babies. After some years the high death rate of babies became a scandal, and the syrup was discovered to contain opium.

Marika Sherwood
Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London

Corrections and clarifications

It is Mike Hussey who is set for a coaching role in England's T20 World Cup campaign in Australia, not his younger brother and fellow coach, Dave Hussey (Saker and Hussey to join England coaching setup for World Cup, 10 September, Sport, p7).

The actor pictured kissing Helen Mirren's hand in an image from the 2006 film The Queen is Michael Sheen, not Martin Sheen as the caption said (Majestic performances, 12 September, G2, p8).

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Royal funeral is bad news for guinea pigs

My six-year-old granddaughter has been solemnly informed that Guinea Pig Awareness Week has been postponed as a mark of respect. She is distraught and I cannot help but think that, as an animal lover, Her Majesty would not have approved. Perhaps a constitutional expert or someone close to the royals could prevail on the organisers to reconsider?

Bob Wells
London

The minor, but long-awaited, heart procedure that I was due to have on Monday has been rescheduled to November. I can cope, but many others waiting in pain for surgery will find it hard to do so, and NHS waiting lists will lengthen. The Queen lived a long, healthy life, thanks to good genes, but also due to the instant medical care she received. No waiting weeks to see a GP or having procedures cancelled at short notice.

Barbara Richardson
London

Many commercial premises have signs recognising that we are in public mourning. This has brought back memories of being in Strasbourg during the mourning period for Charles de Gaulle in November 1970. Most shop windows were empty save for a picture of the late general surrounded in black.

Dudley Coates
Gillingham, Kent

When I was a pupil at a grammar school in Derby, I declined the headmaster's invitation to line the driveway when the then Princess Elizabeth visited. The result was detention and a five-mile walk home as the last bus had left. Then a republican, now a republican.

Dennis Ruston
Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire



Irene Papas

Stage and screen actor known for her roles in *The Guns of Navarone* and *Zorba the Greek*

It is apposite that Irene Papas, who has died aged 96, was at her peak when playing the heroines in film versions of classical Greek tragedies. Notwithstanding her many roles in a wide range of international and Greek films, including *The Guns of Navarone* (1961), *Zorba the Greek* (1964) and *Z* (1969), Papas always gave the impression that there was an Electra, Antigone or Clytemnestra bubbling beneath the surface. She balanced expertly between theatrical tradition and the cinema closeup, her expressive face being especially eloquent in moments of silent suffering.

All the films of the Euripides trilogy - *Electra* (1962), *The Trojan Women* (1971) and *Iphigenia* (1976) - directed by Michael Cacoyannis, were dominated by Papas's dramatic beauty in closeup against realistic Greek landscapes, and proved that the ancient myths could grip modern audiences. It was Cacoyannis, with whom Papas

made six films, including *Zorba the Greek*, who brought out her talent.

The daughter of teachers, she was born Eirini Lelekou in a village near Corinth, and attended the royal drama school in Athens. She started her career in her teens as a singer and dancer in variety shows before launching her film career in 1948, by which time she had married the director Alkis Papas.

After two minor films in Greece, she signed a contract in Italy, where she was underused. Among them were two sword-and-sandals epics, *Theodora*, *Slave Empress* and *Attila* (both 1954), in which she played second fiddle - in the first to Gianna Maria Canale, and in the second to Sophia Loren with Anthony Quinn in the title role. Papas would co-star with Quinn in several films, in which they were a fiery duo.

She made an impressive Hollywood debut as the lover of a ruthless cattle baron (James Cagney) in the Robert Wise western *Tribute to a Bad Man* (1956). This was the female lead role and she

Papas, above, as a courageous resistance fighter in *The Guns of Navarone*, and below left, in *Antigone*, directed by George Tzavellas, both 1961

JT VINTAGE/AVALON; NORMA FILM/KOBAL/SHUTTERSTOCK

consolidated her star status as the valiant resistance leader in the war adventure *The Guns of Navarone*.

In the same year, 1961, Papas took on her first Greek tragedian role in *Antigone*. Directed by George Tzavellas in such a way to make Sophocles's poetic parable come across with lucidity, it allowed Papas as the intractable heroine to demonstrate her elegiac power.

Papas as *Electra*, in her first film with Cacoyannis, prompted the critic Dilys Powell to exclaim: "I had never thought to see the face of the great Apollo from the Olympia pediment live and move. Now I have seen it." Roger Ebert, looking back on the Oscar-nominated film 10 years later, said: "The funereal figures of the Greek chorus - poor peasant women scattered on a hillside - still weep behind *Electra*, and I can never forget her lament for her dead mother. I thought then, and I still think, that Irene Papas is the most classically beautiful woman ever to appear in films."

The *Trojan Women* lost the power, poetry and beauty of the ancient Greek language by being in English, but the cast of Katharine Hepburn (Hecuba), Vanessa Redgrave (Andromache), Geneviève Bujold (Cassandra) and Papas as a seductive Helen of



II
Papas called the colonels' regime in Greece 'the fourth Reich'

Troy, compensated somewhat. The Oscar-nominated *Iphigenia* (based on Cacoyannis's stage production of *Iphigenia at Aulis*), the last of his Euripides trilogy, had Papas, by now in her 50s, giving a forceful performance as Clytemnestra.

Between the first and second Euripidean films, Papas played the lonely widow in *Zorba the Greek* who, after making love to an English writer (Alan Bates), is stoned by the Cretan villagers. The character has little dialogue, but Papas's face and body language are eloquent enough.

Papas went on to play other widows, notably in two political thrillers, Elio Petri's *We Still Kill the Old Way* (1967) and Costa-Gavras's *Z*. The latter clearly pointed the finger at the colonels' totalitarian regime in Greece, which Papas - who lived in exile in Italy from 1967 to 1974 - called "the fourth Reich".

In 1968, among the first work Papas undertook in Italy was *The Brotherhood*, opposite Kirk Douglas, and the TV miniseries *The Odyssey*, in which she played Penelope. She had now become a travelling player, portraying Spaniards such as Catherine of Aragon in *Anne of the Thousand Days* (1969) or Italians such as the housekeeper in Francesco Rosi's *Christ Stopped at Eboli* (1979). In the 1970s and 80s, Papas made an average of two films a year, many of which were unworthy of her.

Happily, she had the chance to shine on Broadway in two plays by Euripides, in the title role of *Medea* (1973) and as Agave in *The Bacchae* (1980), the latter directed by Cacoyannis. Of her *Medea*, the New York Times critic wrote: "Irene Papas brings to the role a controlled intensity, an innate intelligence, and an implacably stubborn anger."

In films, she began to get supporting roles, bringing fire and authenticity as mothers and grandmothers as in Rosi's *Chronicle of a Death Foretold* (1987) and Captain Corelli's *Mandolin* (2001) before making a superb exit from cinema in Manoel de Oliveira's multilingual *A Talking Picture* (2003).

At one point in the film, on board a cruise ship in the Mediterranean, Papas keeps the passengers spellbound by singing a Greek folk song. Her beautiful contralto voice can also be heard on discs of songs by Vangelis and Mikis Theodorakis.

After leaving the cinema, Papas appeared in Euripides' *Hecuba* on stage in Rome in 2003, and directed *Antigone* at the Greek theatre in Syracuse in 2005. She also devoted herself to the establishment of schools of acting in Rome and Athens.

Papas's first marriage ended in divorce in 1951, and her second marriage, to José Kohn, in 1957, was annulled.

Ronald Bergan

Irene Papas, actor, born 3 September 1926; died 14 September 2022

Ronald Bergan died in 2020

Other lives



Geoff Pickup

Designer admired for his attention to detail that resulted in memorable exhibitions at the British Museum
My colleague Geoff Pickup, who has died aged 71, was responsible for the design of many notable galleries and temporary exhibitions during his 38 years as a designer at the British Museum.

His work involved the 3D design and project management of exhibitions in the museum at Bloomsbury, and at the Museum of Mankind at Burlington Gardens, in close liaison with curators, editors, graphic designers and contractors.

Of 22 temporary exhibitions in which he was involved, the most memorable at Bloomsbury were The Golden Age of Venetian Glass (1979), Suleiman the Magnificent (1988) and The Making of England: Anglo-Saxon Art and Culture (1991). He visited India to research the setting for the 1984 Museum of Mankind exhibition *Vasna: Inside an Indian Village*.

Born in Wembley, north-west London, Geoff was the third of four sons of Mary (nee Jackson), a building society clerk, and Frank Pickup, a shipping manager. After Frank's retirement the family moved to Broxbourne, Hertfordshire, and Geoff was educated at Cheshunt grammar school. He then went to the UCL

Bartlett School of Architecture in London, gaining a first in 1973. After initial employment as an architectural assistant at several firms, Geoff applied for a position as assistant 3D designer in the design office of the British Museum in 1975. I was head of design at that time, and selected him at interview.

His initial project was to work with me on the design of the Nomad and City exhibition, the first immersive one at the Museum of Mankind. We also collaborated on a further exhibition there, Captain Cook in the South Seas in 1979.

The remit of the design office expanded in the 1980s to cover responsibility for the public face of the museum: publicity material, public spaces and galleries. Geoff's talents were also then directed to the design of 14 galleries, including the Korean foundation gallery, the Sainsbury African galleries and the Wellcome Trust gallery: Living and Dying. When the museum's policy changed in 2006 to outsourcing, Geoff managed a further 18 projects.



The Wellcome Trust gallery: Living and Dying, at the British Museum, designed by Geoff Pickup and opened in 2003 TRUSTEES OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM

Terry Sanderson

*Gay rights activist whose self-help books, including *How to Be a Happy Homosexual*, transformed lives*

My partner, Terry Sanderson, who has died aged 75, was an early gay rights activist. He was devoted to fighting injustice, and much of his working life was spent helping adults with learning disabilities, initially in Rotherham, South Yorkshire, and then in Ealing, west London, where we later settled.

The youngest son of a miner, Sandy, and his wife, Margaret (nee Goodgrove), a farmworker, Terry was born into extreme poverty in the mining town of Maltby, South Yorkshire, where he went to a secondary modern school, leaving without any qualifications.

In the 1970s, when the council refused to allow a gay disco that Terry hoped to organise on local authority premises, he challenged the decision in the local newspaper.

By doing so, he came out to both the citizens of the town and his family, who were supportive of him and, later, of us both.

He went on to form a branch of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality (CHE) and from his bedroom also established, in 1974, Essentially Gay, a mail order company to help those who were closeted and isolated in other parts of the country. It ran until 1984.

Terry and I met in 1981 during a CHE social weekend. Our binding passion was gay rights, and seeking to combat what we saw as the biggest obstacle to emancipation: religious privilege and harmful doctrine - hence our commitment to secularism.

His greatest talents lay in his journalism and writing. The portfolio of gay self-help books he wrote transformed the lives of many. Most popular was *How to Be a Happy Homosexual* (1986), which went through numerous editions

He had infinite patience and dedication, closely studying the objects in context, paying particular attention to lighting, spending hours on small adjustments to achieve the right results. His skills were inspirational.

On retirement in 2013 he formed a small museum consultancy. In addition to lecturing, participating in museum design workshops and courses in the UK and abroad, he was lead consultant for a new gallery at the Museum of Pre-Columbian Art in Santiago, Chile, which opened in 2014.

Although a very private man, Geoff had many friends and contacts. He was an energetic exhibition visitor with wide interests in architecture, modern prints and ceramics, and loved chamber music, frequently visiting the Wigmore Hall in London. He was a loyal, generous friend and colleague.

Geoff is survived by his brothers, Roy, John and David.

Margaret Hall

Laurence Brophy

Charity fundraiser who set his own challenges after being told in his 70s he was too old for ultra-marathons

Laurence Brophy, my daughter-in-law's father, who has died aged 90 from oesophageal cancer, was deeply involved in his local community in Pencoed, near Bridgend, South Wales, inspiring others with his voluntary work and fundraising for the homeless charity Llamau and the children's disability charity Y Bont.

Laurie's first major fundraising exploit came on a very hot day in 1997, when he ran the London Marathon in a fur badger suit in aid of badger protection. Two years later, he ran his first ultra-marathon, the Marathon des Sables, a brutal six-day, 156-mile race across the Sahara, the oldest competitor at 67. He did several more ultra-marathons, his last, aged 79, in the Atacama desert.

Born in Battersea, south-west London, Laurence was the son of Mabel (nee Thomas), a housemaid, and John Brophy, a stonemason. He was educated at King Edward grammar school, Birmingham, and joined the insurance industry but, after the death of his sister Patricia in 1962, left to travel around Europe. He settled in Italy for a while before returning to study Italian at Cardiff University and train as a teacher.

At university he met Ruth Jones, an Italian and German teacher, and, after they married in 1969, they settled in the town of Pencoed, where Laurie taught French and Italian at the local comprehensive school for nine years, working as a supply teacher for nine further years before he eventually retired.

In that active retirement, Laurie was involved in badger protection, often sleeping out in woodlands to protect setts from

baiting, as well as litter picking and other community activities. He was a founder member of the Bridgend Astronomical Society and a member of the Green party, for which he stood at the 2015 election. He spent a great deal of time helping in local primary schools, taking the children running, nature-watching and fossil-hunting.

Laurie was an adventurer, living a life full of challenges with limited resources. On his last ultra-marathon he was hospitalised with a kidney problem, so he was not allowed to enter again. Unhappy about being told he was too old to race, he went to Chile the following year to attempt the distance solo. He then began his journeys by foot and bike closer to home, giving himself an annual fundraising target.

He walked the length of Offa's Dyke and the Taff Trail and cycled from Land's End to John O'Groats to raise funds for Llamau, at 88 the oldest person to complete



this journey. He often slept on the roadside during this challenge to raise awareness of homelessness.

His final adventure was to cycle and climb the three Welsh peaks Pen y Fan, Cadair Idris and Snowdon. He did not know at the time that he had cancer, but he completed the challenge with the support of fellow climbers.

Ruth survives him, as do their daughters, Katy and Sam, and five grandchildren, Raven, Noah, Seth, Felix and Joni.

John Dunford

Birthdays

Debbie Abrahams, Labour MP, 62; **Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**, novelist, 45; **Jimmy Carr**, comedian and TV presenter, 50; **Sophie Dahl**, writer and model, 45; **Tom Hardy**, actor, 45; **Lord Philip Harris of Peckham**, former chair, Carpetright, 80; **Tommy Lee Jones**, actor, 76; **Sir Michael Lyons**, former chair, BBC Trust, 73; **Helen Margetts**, professor of society and the internet, Oxford University, 61; **Clive Merrison**, actor, 77; **Emmerson Mnangagwa**, president of Zimbabwe, 80; **Mike Procter**, cricketer, 76; **Claudia Rankine**, poet, essayist and playwright, 59; **Renzo Rosso**, fashion designer, 67; **Oliver Stone**, film director, 76; **Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex**, 38; **Amanda Wakeley**, fashion designer, 60; **George Walden**, writer and former Conservative MP, 83; **Steve Watkin**, cricketer, 58.



Unassuming yet popular, Terry was a compassionate fighter for justice. His last post on Facebook, announcing his imminent death from cancer, concluded: "Be kind to each other."

Terry is survived by me and his brother Albert.

Keith Porteous Wood

Yesterday's solutions

Killer sudoku

Easy

2	7	4	8	3	1	9	6	5
1	9	8	4	5	6	7	3	2
5	3	6	7	9	2	8	4	1
6	2	1	3	8	4	5	9	7
4	5	9	6	2	7	3	1	8
3	8	7	9	1	5	4	2	6
7	6	3	1	4	8	2	5	9
9	1	2	5	7	3	6	8	4
8	4	5	2	6	9	1	7	3

Medium

5	8	7	1	9	2	4	3	6
3	9	2	6	4	7	1	8	5
1	4	6	3	8	5	7	9	2
9	5	8	4	2	1	3	6	7
7	3	1	5	6	8	9	2	4
6	2	4	7	3	9	5	1	8
2	6	5	9	1	4	8	7	3
8	7	9	2	5	3	6	4	1
4	1	3	8	7	6	2	5	9

Codeword

S	T	I	O	S	S	I	F	Y
S	Q	U	A	N	D	E	R	M
U	R	E	E	T	A	H	O	Y
I	M	P	E	A	C	H	L	W
R	A	L	O	B	L	O	N	G
S	T	R	U	T	D	I	E	
T	L	O	U	N	E	A	U	T
J	I	N	D	E	X	E	D	G
Q	U	I	N	E	H	H		
G	V	P	R	I	S	M		
I	G	U	A	N	A	U	B	O
L	M	L	I	N	K	I	N	G
D	I	V	A	U	I	T	U	
N	Z	E	A	S	E	A	T	
E	G	R	E	S	H	E	R	
R	E	S	S	H	D	S		

Cryptic crossword

Solution No. 28,862

F	L	A	T	A	P	A	N	C	A	K	E
O	D	L	L	N	O	A	A				
R	O	U	M	T	O	L	E	T	N	O	T
T	R	S	H	G	Y	I					
H	I	N	D	U	O	N	E	H	A	N	D
E	E	I	U	R	I	E					
M	O	D	E	S	T	L	Y	T	U	N	D
O	T	S	A	T	L						
S	T	R	E	S	G	G	T	O	O		
T	I	M	A	E	C	U					
P	I	N	O	T	N	O	R	T	U		
A	G	O	S	A	A	L	B				
R	E	L	A	X	T	R					
T	E	I	I	A	C	S	N				
S	T	A	N	D	C	O	R	E	C	T	E

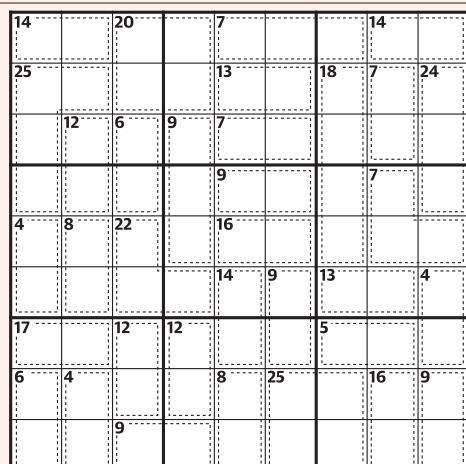


Stuck? For help call 0906 200 83 83. Calls cost £1.10 per minute, plus your phone company's access charge. Service supplied by ATS. Call 0330 333 6946 for customer service (charged at standard rate). Want more? Get access to more than 4,000 puzzles at theguardian.com/crossword. To buy puzzle books, visit guardianbookshop.com or call 0330 333 6846.

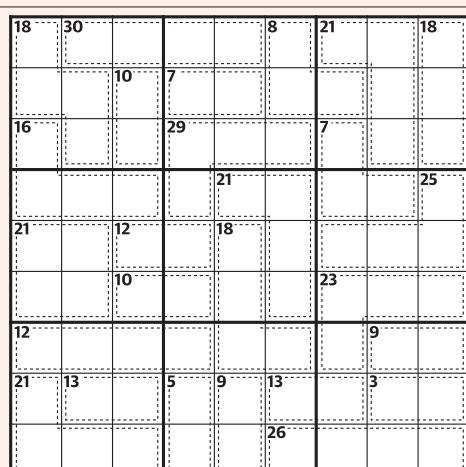
Killer sudoku

Easy

The normal rules of Sudoku apply: fill each row, column and 3x3 box with all the numbers from 1 to 9. In addition, the digits in each inner shape (marked by dots) must add up to the number in the top corner of that box. No digit can be repeated within an inner shape.



Medium

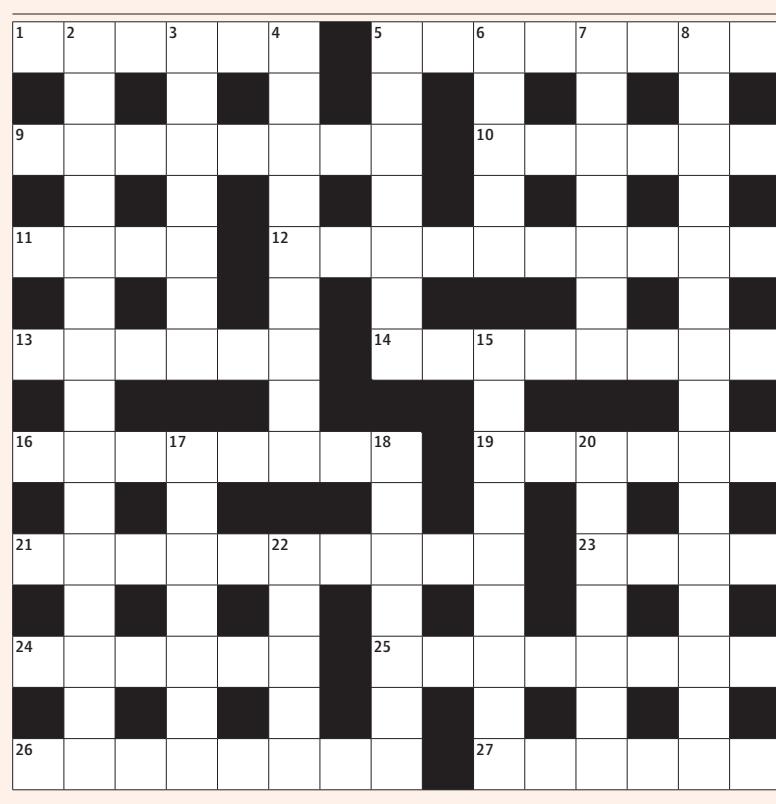


Codeword

Each letter of the alphabet makes at least one appearance in the grid, and is represented by the same number wherever it appears. The letters decoded should help you to identify other letters and words in the grid.

14	1	18	8	16		8	7	12	8	15	23	
1		1			17		10		26	1		25
14	17	12	19	26	8	20		9	26	4	4	11
23		1			22		3		9	4		20
24	14	3	18	8	10	14	11		25	17	14	17
					26		16		3			23
23	26	24	6		24	3	2	22	20	8	20	3
5					10		8		15			20
1	2	15	3	26	10	16	24		8	24	15	11
10					13		24		5		14	
6	1	23	24			8	7	12	1	23	1	10
1		26		3		11		10		2		17
10	11	14	3	10		14	8	25	26	2	8	24
25		14		8		8		8		8		15
	21	8	23	24	17	2		24	26	20	9	24
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Guardian cryptic crossword No 28,863 set by Pasquale



Across

- Sign made by soldier at Agincourt? (6)
- Percent lost came to be worked out in insurer's estimate (11,4)
- Hard cheese? No thanks, when eating a vegetable! (7)
- Antwerp is unfortunately suffering from stormy weather (9)
- Sound of soldier in pub (7)
- Crime of minister initially denied (5)
- Novice? One missing out with exploitative type in pocket (7)
- Sense single man's suffering from futility (15)
- Putting a coat on, eg never shivering outside home (9)
- Must I lie around without energy? Drugs could be the answer (7)
- Person with needle and cotton maybe securing a thread? (7)
- Old city flourishing with distinguished artist (7)
- Article placed on top of room unit (5)

Down

- Delay supplying tree – new date needed for planting (4,4)
- Showing off is fair (8)
- Saw a knight after travail (6)
- Refuse stuff tossed back (4)
- Not the first mistake made by fielder? (6,4)
- Member of group to project sounds (6)
- Left always needs time to gain influence (8)
- Story that could be seen as a clue to Times? (4,4)
- Head of fish, with first bit cut off (6)
- Entertainment as pretties become naughty ... (10)
- ... inducing this in fluster? (4)
- Book that's turned up on radio (6)
- Study about indifferent male farmers (8)
- What makes hedges ultimately neater? (8)
- Green maybe inclined to talk too much about beginning of revolution (6)